Stretham
2000 to 2023

Council
Community
And
Trust

Mike Petty

Stretham 2000-2023: Council, Community and Trust.

Facts, Feature and (increasing) Fallacies
recorded in Newspapers, Council Minutes, Newsletters and Websites
compiled by Mike Petty;
2023 01 23

Draft Edited

From 1764 events in Cambridgeshire have been reported in local newspapers.
I have transcribed hundreds of stories relating to the village of Stretham that were published between 1770 and 2000 in a document published online on Internet Archive

Stretham Chronicle and Scrapbook from 1770 to 2000 by Mike Petty: Facts features and (occasional) fallacies reported in Cambridgeshire newspapers
https://archive.org/details/StrethamChronicleAndScrapbook17702018

By 2000 the amount of information published in traditional print newspapers greatly reduced and the 'local correspondent' had become a thing of the past. Information was increasingly published in Community Magazines and Newsletters and online on Websites and Council Minutes.
These together with comments on Social Media, including Facebook may not have been complete, accurate or impartial.
I have summarised a number of such sources. They are inevitably incomplete.
This is a working document and is subject to amendment and addition with a number of files still to be added including extracts from a number of Parish Council Minutes and Newsletters.
Please notify me of errors and omissions
Many reports relating to the Stretham and Wilburton Community Development Trust are not currently included in this record.

Sources include
Cambridge News: CN
Cambridge Independent: CI
Email correspondence EM
Facebook F
Fenland History on Facebook: FHF
Stretham Residents2gether Facebook: SRF
Messenger posts M
Stretham Parish Council Minutes: SPCM
Stretham Parish Council Newsletters: SPCN
Stretham Parish Council Emails SPCW
East Cambridgeshire District Council Emails ECDCE

Stretham 2000-2023: Council, Community and Trust.
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Draft.
23rd January 2023

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2000 04 15
Full steam ahead for unique engine; today is public attraction along with stoker's cottage, bookstall and children's trail; open Sundays and Bank Holidays. pic Owen Jakes neg 3458M-7 CNC

2000 06 06 PC
Stretham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th June, 2000 at Stretham School.

Bus Shelter - A letter was received from the Highways Agency informing the Council that Mr Peter Taylor at Owen Williams was responsible for the design of the Safety Scheme in Stretham, and he had been asked to investigate the siting of the bus shelters. Mr Wakefield informed the meeting that he had had a site meeting on 25th May. He stated that all bus services had now been revised, and it was felt that the positioning of the proposed new shelter should be reconsidered. An alternative would be to site the shelter on the other side of the road, but this was felt to be unsatisfactory due to lack of space there. Part of a garden would need to be compulsorily purchased. Other alternative sites were discussed. Mr Petty suggested a place in Wilburton Road opposite the Recreation Ground and to defer the Cambridge Road proposals. Mr Langford suggested the lay-by just round the corner from the roundabout. Various other comments and suggestions were made, and the Chairman asked the meeting whether or not they wanted to proceed with the proposals for a bus shelter in Cambridge Road. It was unanimously agreed that the Cambridge Road proposals be abandoned. After further debate on the subject, it was finally decided that the Village Amenities Sub-Committee be asked to investigate the siting of a bus shelter on the north side of Wilburton Road.

SSRC - Mrs Johnson told the meeting that she had informed SSRC of the conditions regarding the times allowed for floodlighting the all-weather surface. It was pointed out, however, that the lights were not required at this time of year. Discussion took place on the hedge bordering the car-park, and Mr Petty thought the existing hedge was very unsightly, and Mrs Johnson stated that SSRC are considering improving it. A larger hedge was suggested and this was thought to be a good idea. Mrs Johnson also informed the meeting that the provision of a barrier at the entrance to the car-park is still being investigated. It was reported that cars in the car-park were causing a nuisance during the day and also late at night. Mr Peacock offered a 'lockable barrier' for the entrance to the car-park, and Mrs Johnson confirmed that she would put this kind offer to the SSRC Committee.

Stretham Playgroup and Youth Club - The Chairman, Ms Parish and Mr Peacock declared an interest in this item and took no part in the ensuing proceedings. Mr Langford took the Chair. After lengthy discussion on the application for a grant of almost £2,700 for a new ceiling in the club premises, it was proposed by Mr Petty, and seconded by Mrs Day, that a grant of £2,500 be made. This proposal was put to the meeting and was defeated by the casting vote of the acting Chairman. Mr Langford proposed that a grant of £1,500 be made, this was seconded by Mr Petty and carried. Mr Roberts returned to the Chair.

Village Sign - It was agreed by all present that the unveiling had been a great success despite the adverse weather conditions. Mr Peacock proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Tilsden for his efforts in the erection and preparation of the sign. This vote of thanks was unanimously endorsed by all members of the Council.

Mrs B Stevens - Proposed Memorial
A letter was read from Graham Stevens, the son of the late Mrs Stevens, requesting "some permanent mark of her years of service to the village as schoolteacher, school manager and Parish Councillor". He suggested either a plaque fixed to the village sign or some other appropriate memorial. Various comments and suggestions were put forward, including the provision of a black steel seat around the tree in the Jubilee Garden to match the railings, with an appropriate inscription. Mr Elsden stated that such a seat would cost between £350 and £500. Mr Petty thought that a more appropriate location for some sort of memorial would be at the school. It was agreed that these proposals be put to Mr Stevens, also asking him if he would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost of any proposal.

Tree Planting - Mill Way - A letter was received from Mr W R Gill asking if the Parish Council had obtained the correct permissions to carry out tree planting in Mill Way. As an adjacent landowner, he was not aware that the Council had advertised or consulted locally. He stated that Mill Way, being an unsurfaced track, frequently becomes deeply rutted through normal use, and pedestrians and motorcyclists often take to the fields alongside, which tends to widen the track. He is concerned that the ill-considered planting of various types of trees will force landowners to a single central track and other users even further into the fields. The Clerk reported that he had consulted the County Council and it appeared that their permission and that of adjoining landowners should be sought. Mr Langford thought that the trees recently planted in Mill Way were well out of the way and this was the opinion of other members. Mr Wakefield stated that trees planted were to replace previous ones in Mill Drove. Mr Langford also thought that a Mr Everitt was the adjoining landowner where the trees had been planted. After discussing the matter at some length, the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council for retrospective permission for the tree planting. It was also agreed to write to Mr Gill thanking him for his letter and noting its contents.

Stretham Primary School - A letter was received from the School Governors concerning the recent changes to the Governing Body. Mrs Brenda Ratcliffe has been elected as new Chair, and a list of all members was given. A copy of Governors' Report for the year 1999-2000 accompanied the letter.

War Memorial - Churchyard - A letter from Mr Kisby, in his capacity as Churchwarden, was received informing the Council that the Church has received a specification from the District Council for restoration work on the War Memorial in the Churchyard. The quotation did not include the re-painting of the letters on the 1939-1945 plaque, which are more indecipherable than those on the main memorial. Mr Kisby asked if the work on the plaque could be done at the same time as the 1914-1918 memorial. The Clerk reported that a copy of the quotation was produced at the April meeting of the Parish Council and that he had approached the District Council regarding Mr Kisby's request. Written confirmation from the District Council that Ivett & Reed have been instructed to refurbish all the lettering on the memorial, including the 1939-1945 plaque, has been received. The District Council have also confirmed that they will bear the cost.

Mr Elsden produced a brochure depicting various types of skateboard surfaces. Costs varied between £7,000 (for a timber and steel construction) to £13,000. A grant of 50% from the District Council could be applied for. Mr Petty felt that location would be a problem. Mr Langford suggested that the cheaper option should be considered as the trend for skateboarding might die out. Ms Parish thought this unlikely to be the case. Mr Elsden stated that ramps could be an alternative. A number of suggestions were put forward regarding the location of such a construction and it was finally decided that this be dealt with by the Sub-Committee.

Sub-Committee Reports continued:-
a) Red Lion P.H. - alterations to existing rear entrance lobby and provision of disabled toilet (E/00/0364/F)

c) Lazy Otter P.H. - Addition to Bar Lounge and Restaurant to front of property and provision of disabled toilet (E/00/0402/F)
d) Stretham Church Hall - Re-positioning of entrance and provision of disabled toilet (E/00/0423/F)
Application (E/99/1068/F) - Extension to and division of existing building into two units at Industrial Unit, Wilburton Road, Stretham for B J Waller - The Planning Authority had informed the Council that this application had been granted subject to the usual conditions.

Mr Petty reported on the progress of the Millennium Project which is to be produced on CD Rom. A 30 page booklet, for distribution throughout the village, is due to go to the printers by the end of June. He requested that an item asking residents for any family history that might be of interest to the Project be placed in the Newsletter.

2000 07 04 PC
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July, 2000 at Stretham School.
Bus Shelter - Mr Wakefield reported that both he and Mr Elsden had had a meeting with a representative of the County Council regarding the siting of a Shelter outside No 8b Wilburton Road.
The suggestion that the proposed Shelter should have no half width ends or seats was agreed for safety reasons.
SSRC - Mrs Johnson reported that the floodlights were not being used at the moment but people would be asked to leave the All Weather Surface by 9.0 p.m. She also pointed out that a hedge was to be provided around the perimeter of the car park as stipulated on the Original Consent by the Planning Authority. A barrier was now in place at the entrance to the car park and a notice stating that it could be locked at any time would be displayed
Stretham Playgroup and Youth Club - On behalf of the Club the Chairman thanked the Parish Council for its contribution of £1,500 towards the cost of the new ceiling.
Mrs B Stevens - Proposed Memorial - The Clerk reported that he had not yet received a reply from Graham Stevens
Jubilee Garden - Two quotations for the seat around the tree were opened by the Chairman as follows:-

The Victorian Gate & Seating Co.	£613.00
Rodney Cranwell	£987.00

It was proposed by Mrs Day, seconded by Mr Jeal and carried that the quotation from The Victorian Gate & Seating Co. be accepted.
Skateboard Park - Mr Wakefield reported that the Contractors were unable to give an estimate unless the exact location of the Park was identified. Mr Elsden had suggested a site between the All Weather Surface and the hedge bordering the Bowls Club on the Recreation Ground. Mr Jeal suggested that alternative locations should be considered. Mr Wood thought the suggested site would create extra noise for the neighbours.
Planning - Proposed detached house and garage on land adjacent to 13 Newmarket Road, Stretham Objections were made to this application (Ref. E/00/0551/F) on the grounds that access from the site
On to Newmarket Road would be extremely dangerous.
The Planning Authority had sent notification of permission being granted for the following applications: -
E/00/0364/F - Alterations to existing rear entrance lobby at the Red Lion P H and E/00/0177/0 – One new detached house on land forming part of garden, 3 Pump Lane (outline permission)
The Planning Authority had also sent notification of Refusal of permission for Total Demolition and Erection of Cottage at 11 Chapel Street (Ref. E/0070215/F)
Notice of the dismissed Appeal in respect of a proposed 3-bed chalet cottage at land to the rear of 16 Reads Street (Ref.E/99/0804/F) was also received
Mr Jeal suggested that more activities could take place on Feast Day with a view to attracting more people. He also suggested that the Notice Board should be available for all the community rather

than just the Parish Council and that it should be sited in a more prominent position. It was agreed that both these matters be placed on the next Agenda.

2000 08 01 PC
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st August 2000 at Stretham School.
Bus Shelter, Wilburton Road - A letter was received from David Groom, the County Council's Divisional Maintenance Engineer stating that he had no objections to the proposed bus shelter to be located outside 8b Wilburton Road provided that the Company responsible for erecting the shelter is accredited under the New Roads and Street Works Act to work on the public highway. The estimated cost for providing a safety barrier and widening the back of the footway as suggested for safety was as follows:-

Fabricate barrier and footway works	£270.00
Kee Klamp barrier and footway works	£240.00

The relevant drawings for these barriers were also sent.
Mr Wakefield stated that the safety fence between the pavement and the adjoining ditch would be about one metre in high. It was generally felt that this safety rail would be a prime target for vandalism.
Mr Langford suggested that 4 or 5 18" concrete pipes be obtained to pipe the ditch approximately 1 metre either side of the shelter which would create extra space and the safety fence would not therefore be required. The permission of the owner of the ditch would of course be required. Discussion took place as to the cost of this piping and it was suggested that materials could be obtained from the drainage works due to be carried out on the Recreation Ground in the very near future and this was agreed. Mr Wakefield stated that he had sought the views of the service utilities and they had informed him that it was the responsibility of the Contractors erecting the shelter to determine if any pipes or cables would be affected. A quotation from Macemain & Amstad for the bus shelter amounting to £1,966.00 was produced by Mr Wakefield and it was proposed by Mr Peacock, seconded by Mr Elsden and carried that this quotation be accepted.

Tree Planting - Mill Way - A letter was received from the County Council's Parish Paths Liaison Officer informing Council that as a way of improving the environment the planting of hedges and trees within the countryside is welcomed. It was agreed that the trees planted in Mill Way were not causing any obstruction but it was decided that they should be inspected from time to time and any maintenance found to be necessary would be carried out.

Mrs Johnson asked about the erection of a gate in the turning space in Green End close to the bridge. Mr Langford informed the meeting that he had arranged for this to be erected in his capacity as a representative of Stretham Old Engine. The gate was provided by the County Council to prevent vandalism.

Land off Wood Lane, Stretham - A letter was received from Solicitors acting on behalf of the Trustees of the Stretham Baptist Chapel stating that the Manse in Reads Street is in serious need of repair and that there are no funds available to meet this. In order for these repairs to be carried out, or alternatively for a new Manse to be built, the Trustees are considering developing the garden to the rear of the Manse. This would require access into Wood Lane via the road that leads to the Cemetery which is owned by the Parish Council. The Trustees ask whether the Parish Council would be prepared to grant a Right of Way over this approach road and also what sort of consideration (whether by way of a lump sum or by a proportion of the uplift in value of the Trustees' land) would be required by the Parish Council. After some discussion on the matter, it was agreed that professional advice should be sought.

Stretham Millennium History Project - A letter was received from Mr Petty, on behalf of Cambridge Heritage Associates, accompanied by a copy of the draft of the main folders of material that have been compiled for the project. This material contained information on Geology, Archaeology & Early History, the Domesday Survey, Architecture & Buildings, an Illustrated Street

History, Chronology of Stretham History and Stretham Scrapbook, and also text entitled "Turbulent Priests", which is a history of the Parish from 1222 to the present.
It was understood that the Parish Council will be supplied with one top copy and five duplicate sets contained in binders. The text element of the binders will also be produced on a CD-Rom, together with a number of illustrations. Further copies of the text or CD-Rom would be available at extra cost. A 32 page booklet containing 20-30 illustrations is now in the final design stage and the Parish Council will be supplied with one master copy together with a computer disk to be used by the Parish Council for the printing of further copies. If preferred, Cambridge Heritage Associates can arrange for the printing of the booklet, but at extra charge. It is hoped that the complete package will be available to the Parish Council at its September meeting.
Cambridge Heritage Associates would be pleased to make a presentation of their findings to a village meeting if required and suggested the Church as a suitable venue. As the BBC are holding a special week of "Celebrating Histories of Britain" between 16th and 21st October, it was suggested that either Monday 16th or Tuesday 17th would be suitable dates for this presentation if this could be agreed with other members of the Heritage Team.
Several members had seen the draft and were very impressed with its contents. It was decided that a Sub-Committee be formed comprising Ms Parish, Mrs Johnson and Mr Wood to facilitate the Parish Council's further involvement in the project. Mr Petty took no part in these proceedings, then returned to the meeting.

Mrs Johnson stated that thanks had been received from members of the public for the new seat that had been installed in the Cemetery.

Skateboard Park - A letter addressed to Mr Elsden from a resident of High Street complaining that numerous children were using the area at the junction of High Street and Pump Lane as a skateboard park was received. He considered that the roller-skaters were causing a nuisance and were a potential danger to pedestrians and to themselves due to passing traffic. Discussion took place on the siting of the skateboard park, and it was finally decided that a site somewhere on the Recreation Ground would be most appropriate. The Clerk was asked to write to the High Street resident informing him of the current situation.

Planning - E/99/0339/F Conversion of barn to dwelling and erection of new dwelling, Home Farm Barn, Chapel Street, Stretham. Amended plans were received concerning alterations to windows of new building and alterations to vehicular access. As this application had already been granted contrary to the wishes of the Parish Council and neighbouring residents, it was decided that there was no point in making any further comment.

The Planning Authority had sent notification of permission being granted for the following applications: -
E/00/0423/F - Repositioning of Entrance and Formation of Disabled Toilet at Stretham Church Hall. E/00/0307/F - Single-storey extension to living room and porch at 20 Meadowcroft for Mr A Housden.
E/00/0402/F - Additions to bar, lounge and restaurant at The Lazy Otter PH
E/99/0972/F - Erection of single dwelling house and garage and create access at 1 Top Street, Street for Mr and Mrs I Morris.

2000 08 07
Stretham Parochial Church Council has been granted £20,000 towards the installation of new toilets and heating at the Parish Rooms. The Grants Committee of ECDC heard that the building might have to be closed and sold because of the poor facilities. The noisy and inefficient heating system. Deterred potential users and a lack of disabled toilet facilities meant the hall has lost its public entertainments licence. The PCC carried out a survey which showed there were 300 occasions last year when new heating facilities and toilets would have been used. The grant is expected to cover 75 per cent of the £28,750 cost of improvements. A further £4.550 will come from church council’s reserves, leaving £5,000 still to be raised.

2000 08 22
Bike track glass cut our son, say parents – pic – Jamie Setchell CNC

2000 09 05 PC
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2000 at Stretham School
Bus Shelter, Wilburton Road - Macemain Amstad Ltd. had acknowledged the Council's order for the new Bus Shelter and confirmed that the installation team allocated to this project would hold the necessary accreditation cards required by the Roads and Street Works Act, and the work would commence in early October. The County Council have arranged for a site meeting to take place on Monday 11 September at 2.30 pm and Mr Wakefield offered to represent the Parish Council.

Recycling Centre - Mr Elsden informed the meeting that a recycling centre, comprising a concrete base and 6ft wooden fencing on three sides, would be provided. The fencing would prevent the waste bins being visible from both the Recreation Ground and Wilburton Road. Another piece of fencing would also be provided alongside the Recreation Ground to connect with the recycling centre. The work is due to start this week.

Land off Wood Lane, Stretham - A letter was received from F & S Partnership informing the Council that, from a valuation point of view, they saw no reason why a right of way should not be granted provided this does not adversely affect the Council's property in any way. They felt that the consideration was really a matter of negotiation between the two parties which could result in a figure of between 25% and 50% of the development value of the site it is enhancing, which is not possible to ascertain at this stage due to planning permission not yet having been granted. Members agreed to inspect the site and it was agreed that the item should be included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

Stretham Millennium History Project - Members received the Presentation Copy of the Stretham Millennium History plus five additional copies, together with ten copies of the CD Rom. Additional copies of the text (with folder) would be available at £30 and of the CD Rom at £10. The CD Rom can be updated at any time. Mrs Johnson showed members the draft of the booklet, now 34 pages as additional photographs have been added. Various quotes had been received for the printing of the booklet. Discussion took place as to whether 1000 or 1500 copies should be printed. Mr Elsden's proposal that 1000 copies be printed was seconded by Mr Langford.An amendment by Mrs Day that 1500 copies be produced was seconded by Mrs Johnson. This amendment was carried. Mr Petty took no part in these proceedings. It was agreed that Hobbs, King and Parr's quotation, amounting to £999 be accepted. It was anticipated that the booklets would be available at the next meeting, when method of distribution could be decided. A letter, addressed to Mr Wakefield, had been received from Elizabeth Stazicker, Head of Heritage Services and County Archivist, confirming that they will be delighted to arrange a small exhibition of documents at the launch of the Stretham Millennium History Mr Wakefield reported that he had spoken with the Deputy County Archivist, and Mrs Johnson reported that the relevant permission had been granted. In answer to Mrs Johnson's query regarding a disclaimer, Mr Petty pointed out that this was contained in the introduction to the text.

Recreation Ground - Drainage - Lengthy discussion took place regarding the mound of earth on the site of the old pavilion excavated from the drainage works particularly concerning the allegation that a child cut his leg on a piece of glass when falling off his cycle on the mound. Although children were using the mound as a cycle track it was stressed that the Parish Council had not intended that the mound be used for this purpose.
A letter was received from the Stretham Football Club concerning the state of the field as a result of the drainage works. The trenches resulting from the works contained a lot of stones and the re-seeding of grass had not been successful.
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Village Amenities - Mr Elsden reported that the ground had been levelled in the Ely Road Play Area and the fence there had been repaired. He had also received advice regarding further improvements and grass seeding for the area. Mr Langford pointed out that as the quote received was over £250.00 two further estimates would be required. It was agreed to ask the Sub-committee to take steps to remedy the worst of the unevenness, bricks etc. as a temporary expedient.
Skateboard Park - Mr Elsden stated that the cost of a concrete Skateboard Park would be about £14,000 and a tin one with plywood would be £8,240 and it had been agreed by the Sub-Committee that the 'Park' be sited on the Recreation Ground

The Planning Authority had sent notification of their refusal to application E/00/0551/F – proposed detached house and garage at land adjacent 13 Newmarket Road for Mr & Mrs M Kidd. The reasons for refusal were that access to the site was inadequate and below the standard required by reason of visibility, the length of frontage available was insufficient to enable a satisfactory road junction with adequate visibility splays to be provided, the manoeuvring of vehicles likely to be generated would have an adverse effect on the adjoining public highway and the development would have an adverse effect on the character of the Conservation Area

2000 10 03 PC

Matters Arising from Minutes
Bus Shelter, Wilburton Road - Mr Wakefield reported that the Bus Shelter had been installed on 26/27 September. He did point out however, that insufficient tarmac had been placed around the "feet" of the shelter thereby causing a potential danger to pedestrians and it was agreed to write to the Contractors concerning this. A letter was also received from the County Council authorising the erection of the shelter subject to the conditions that; a) the shelter is located so as not to interfere with visibility of road signs or endanger road users, b) The Parish Council shall remove the shelter at their expense if required to do so by the County Council within six months of receipt of a notice to this effect, c) The Parish Council shall ensure the shelter is maintained in a satisfactory condition and d) The Shelter is sited so it does not interfere with any pipes, cables, wires, apparatus or structure owned or used by statutory undertakers. The County Council also stated that a grant of £1,000.00 had been awarded.
Mr Wakefield reported that 32 windows in the Church had been broken over the week-end as a result of conkers being thrown. A lawnmower and tools had also been stolen.
Abandoned Car, Green End - It was reported that the car had now been removed Stretham

Millennium History Project - Mrs Johnson reported on the recent meeting of the members involved with the printing and distribution of the booklets produced as part of this Project and with the Presentation to be held in the Church on 17 October. 1,500 copies of the booklet had now been printed and were in Mr Wood's possession and he was arranging for their distribution by members of the Council. An explanatory leaflet, advertising the Presentation, will be circulated with each booklet. Posters giving notice of the event will also be produced and displayed throughout the village.
The Chairman raised the issue of the funding of the Project. The Clerk pointed out that, including the expenditure on the History Project, the Council will this year have exceeded the sum allowed to be spent under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972. Although the District Council have agreed to make a grant of 50% towards the cost of the Project, any such grant is not taken into consideration within the powers of Section 137. The sub committee recommended sales of the additional copies at £2.50 each. Mr Petty declared that as his involvement had now ended he was able to comment on this issue, and felt £3.50 represented good value when compared with similar publications.
The sub committee further proposed that orders of 10 or more copies be discounted to £1.75 allowing commercial outlets to sell copies.
The Chairman expressed his concern at the charge for additional copies, given that the parish had funded the publication. However, it was agreed that, as each household received a free copy, the

charge for extra copies was appropriate and would enable the parish to recover part of the overall cost of the project.
The Chairman also raised the question of the cost of additional copies of the folder and cd-rom, his concern being that the project was sanctioned on the premise that the results would be made available in the widest possible manner. Charging such costs, which represented a significant level above cost, would inhibit this.
Mr Petty stated this was agreed at the last Parish Council meeting and was covered in the contract. The Clerk examined the record of previous meetings, but no reference was found confirming that any contract had been signed, merely reference to discussions being pursued by Ms. Parish and Cambridge Heritage Trustees.
Mr. Jeal proposed that the Parish Council distribute copies for the cd-rom, at cost, to those seeking this format. Mr Petty stated this was not possible under the copyright arrangements. The Chairman asked whether Mr Petty would feel happier declaring an interest.
Clarification of the copyright was then sought and reference made to a copy of the complete text where it was shown that the copyright was held "jointly by the authors and Stretham Parish Council".
This statement, it was noted, was also in the booklet that was to be distributed.
Mr. Jeal therefore queried why the Parish Council could not therefore distribute copies of either the complete folder or cd-rom at cost, whereupon Mr. Petty commented that the authors would need to approve this action.
Mr. Jeal therefore felt the authors would need similar approval from the Parish Council, as joint copyright holders, and that, as a minimum, 50% of any profit should be returned to the parish who had, after all, already paid for this work.
Mrs Johnson reminded the Council that 10 copies of the cd-rom and five copies of the text, plus the presentation copy, had been lodged with the Parish Council and that the sub committee proposed these should be made available at various locations, and through parish organisations for borrowing by members of the parish.
The Chairman returned to the principle that the parish had already paid for this information and hence additional costs should be kept, as near as possible, to the actual cost of production. Mr Petty felt the Chairman was seeking to overturn contractual obligations made by the Parish Council and as this was highly inappropriate he felt unable to continue to discuss the matter further and therefore left the meeting.
Further discussion ensued, when it was felt no further progress could be made without reference to the contract referred to by Mr Petty. However, it was felt distribution of the booklet could still proceed with suitable amendments to the accompanying leaflet, in order to remove comment regarding folders and cd-rom being on sale.
Mrs Johnson had already stated that she had to attend another meeting, and left at 8.15 p.m.

Mound on Recreation Ground - A letter was received from Mrs Donna Cornwell thanking the Parish Council for the creation of a bike track. It was agreed to acknowledge Mrs Cornwell's letter but to point out to her that the mound is not intended for use as a cycle track.

Land off Wood Lane (Cemetery Approach Road)
Solicitors acting for the Trustees of the Baptist Chapel had sent a copy of a letter from the Cambs. & Isle of Ely County Council dated 10th October 1972 stating that this road belonged to them. The Clerk produced the original Conveyance dated 9th November 1886 transferring the ownership of the land for a Burial Ground and the approach road leading to it to the Burial Board to the Parish of Stretham. It was agreed to inform the Trustee's Solicitors of these findings.

Highways - A letter was received from the County Council regarding the Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes Bidding Rounds for the year 2001/2002. This letter was handed to Mr Jeal together with further letters from the County Council referring to Speed Management and the de-trunking of the A10. Mr Jeal reported on a recent meeting with the County Council Highways Dept. when it was revealed that the reason for the Council's unsuccessful bid for a pedestrian crossing earlier in the year was that no accidents had been recorded at the suggested location.

SSRC - Mrs Day enquired about the meeting recently held at the SSRC when 15/17 year olds were invited to air their views on future provisions of sport and other activities within their age group. It was agreed to ask Mrs Johnson (who had left the meeting earlier) regarding the outcome.
Quotations were received for the grass seeding of the Ely Road Play Area and the turfing of the surrounding banks. Discussion took place regarding the grassing of the Area and it was finally decided that due to the lateness in the season the most appropriate solution would be to turf the whole area. It was agreed to ask for further quotes for turfing only, and it was decided that these should be considered prior to the November meeting of the Parish Council.
Skateboard - A letter was received from the Bowls Club expressing their concern that the proposed Skateboard Park would be located close to the Bowls Green. It was re-iterated that no decision has been made on the exact location.
Before the remainder of items on the Agenda were considered the Chairman read a letter from Mr Petty that had been received subsequent to his leaving the meeting earlier. Mr Petty's letter referred to the Millennium History Project.
Mr Petty also stated in his letter that he would be unable to attend the next three meetings of the Council and that during this period he would also be unable to serve on any Sub-Committees.
The remainder of the items on the Agenda were then taken

2000 10 16
All smiles at Stretham – Residents outside St James' Church CNC
Village spotlight – pic of school and residents
Jean Adamson: it's where Topsy and Tim found their roots
Mike Petty: local historian puts it on record
Edris Tildesley with Samuel Dunkley, Katie Spilsbury & Bridie Youngman: school with high standards ,
John Kisby: charity funds are available to everyone
Ernie Collins: now Ernie finds work is more of a hobby
John Morley: John has reasons to be buoyant. CNC

2000 11 07 PC
Millennium History Project - A letter was received from a local resident concerning the booklet produced regarding the Project congratulating the Parish Council for its production. The Clerk reported that he had received a 'phone call also complimenting the Council on the booklet.
Members of the Council who attended the Launch of the Project on 17th October, when about 100 people attended, were of the opinion that the occasion was a great success.
Mrs Johnson reminded members that the next event on the Project will be held on 14th November at the School when Mike Young and David Hall will outline the archaeological aspects of the Project followed the next day by a talk to the school children on the subject.
The Chairman referred to the contract that had been produced by Mr Petty. The document produced was the revised Proposal dated January 1999 and the Chairman was of the opinion that this Proposal was not a formal contract. Mrs Day also felt that a more formal contract should have been produced regarding the sale of the CD's and folders and that the Parish Council were not benefiting from the sales
The Chairman re-iterated his reservations made at the last meeting and Mrs Johnson thought that as the Chairman was unable to attend meetings when decisions were made he was possibly unaware of what had been agreed. Ms Parish felt that the sales of the CD rom and folders by the Cambridge Heritage Associates had been made clear at previous meetings
Further lengthy debate continued particularly regarding the copyright of the Project and it was finally agreed to seek the advice of CALC on the question of ownership of the copyright.
The Chairman produced Mr Petty's letter of 3rd October which referred to the Proposal dated January 1999. Mr Petty also referred to the minute of the September meeting which reads "additional copies of the text (with folder) would be available at £30 and of the CD Rom at £10".
Mr Petty had also stated in his letter that he believed that it was now too late for the Chairman to seek to change what had clearly been agreed and felt that the Chairman was out of order in this regard.

Mr Wakefield referred to the church records provided at the Launch of the Project pointing out that the County Council Records Office would not charge for loan of the documents but would accept a donation. It was agreed to donate a copy of the folder to the Records Office but Mr Wood felt that this should not be done until a reply is received from CALC.

Land off Wood Lane, Stretham (Cemetery Approach Road) - A reply was received from the Solicitors acting for the Baptist Chapel in which they accepted that the land was conveyed to the Parish Council They had, however, sent a copy of a letter they had received from the Cambs. County Council dated 14th September 2000 pointing out that "the approach road to the cemetery at Stretham is Public Footpath No.3 and is therefore maintainable at public expense, up to the rear fence of No. 6 Reads Street". The Clerk reported that he had consulted Mr Fretwell of F & S Partnership and had shown him a map relating to the presentation of the Cambridgeshire County Council 1998/99 Rights of Way Award which clearly indicated that Footpath No. 3 ended at the main gate in the Cemetery. It was also pointed out that the County Council's claim that the footpath went up to the rear fence of No 6 Reads Street was impossible as this property was on the wrong side of Reads Street. Mr Fretwell had advised the Clerk that the Parish Council should seek legal advice on the matter as it was agreed that Archer & Archer be consulted.

17 Chapel Street - A letter was received from Robins Response alleging that the structural damage occurring to this property is caused by the tree in the front verge adjacent to the property (also outside the former Methodist Chapel). Robins Response were hopeful that repairs to the property may proceed but felt that the building will be vulnerable to future movement unless the tree was maintained at its present height or ideally, even reduced in height. They asked that active regular vegetation control on the tree should be carried out to prevent any further long term problems on the property. Mr Langford confirmed that the tree belonged to the Parish Council as he had in fact helped to plant it some years ago. It was agreed to seek the advice of the District Council's Tree Officer on the matter and also to send a copy of Robins Response's letter to the Council's Insurers.
S.O.C.K.S. - A letter was received from Mrs Rebecca Sheldrick on behalf of the new committee for the 'Stretham's School's Out Club for Kids'. Mrs Sheldrick had enclosed a 'flyer' promoting the new venture and asked if this could be delivered with the monthly newsletter.
Sub-Committee Reports
Footpaths - Mr Wakefield reported that an inspection by the Cambs. County Council of footpaths within the parish would take place on 16th November next.
Recreation Ground - ROSPA had responded to the Council's enquiry regarding the use of the mound of earth on the Rec. and considered it an excellent idea in principle to make the mound into a cycle track and recommended that conditions be made such

SSRC - Mrs Johnson reported that 15 - 17 year olds had requested a practice football pitch and goal on the Recreation Ground which would be sited so as not to interfere with the other pitches already there. She also stated that the girls had asked for a netball hoop.
Highways - Mr Jeal reported on the Sub-Committee's application on behalf of the Parish Council concerning the Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes Bidding Round for the year 2001/2002.
He reported that he and Mrs Johnson (Mr Elsden not being available at the time) had had an on-site meeting with David Brace (Team Leader of the County Council's Traffic Management Dept.) on the A1123. It was felt that as this road was a key concern highlighted in the Safer Village Survey and as the suggested improvements would increase pedestrian and cyclist access to the Recreation Ground, this was felt to be the Parish Council's best bidding option. The comments accompanying the bid to the County Council were in support of improvements to reduce the speed of traffic approaching the A1123/A10 junction and to facilitate the safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists in order to provide and encourage safer access to the Recreation Ground. It was considered that these objectives could be best achieved with the provision of two mini-roundabouts and a pedestrian crossing on the A1123; one of the mini-roundabouts to be positioned at the junction with Short Road, the other at the junction with Cage Lane opposite High Street and the pedestrian crossing somewhere between these two roundabouts.

Village Amenities - Ely Road Play Area - Mr Elsden voiced his concern over the time taken in getting this area grassed bearing in mind that the Council had allowed £11,000 to be spent on this scheme. It was pointed out to him that the delay was caused by the necessity to obtain three quotes for all expenditure over £250, although it was generally felt that this limit was now too low. It was noted that the turfing of the area had commenced.
Planning - No objection was raised to an application (E/00/0849/F) for the creation of a lake/pond and landscaping at Bridge House, Green End.

2000 12 05 PC
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2000 at Stretham School
Present: Mr Roberts, Mr Wakefield, Mr Langford, Mr Wood, Ms Parish, Mr Elsden, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Day (minutes) Mr Jeal arrived at 8.15pm

The Chairman advised it was with regret that he had received and accepted Mr Dunn's resignation as Clerk to Stretham Parish Council. He was very grateful for the tremendous hard work Mr Dunn had put in, not only on the day to day Business of the Parish Council but also in organising the files and sorting out years of paperwork. Mr Dunn has agreed to handover to the new Clerk and Mrs Day had agreed to do the minutes for the December meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the Finance sub-Committee be instructed to go ahead and recruit a new Clerk and it was agreed that the advertisement should be placed immediately. Unanimous approval was given for the sub-Committee to progress fully with the Selection process and appoint the new Clerk to ensure they can take on the role by the next meeting. Mr Wakefield enquired about the hours required by the Clerk as this was being evaluated by a previous clerk. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council needs to be mindful of the minimum wage legislation and CALC guidance on pay now does not apply. A detailed timesheet will need to be completed by the new Clerk to ensure the minimum wage criteria is met. The Chairman advised that pay was not the reason for Mr Dunn's resignation but the workload.

A draft tender form was handed round and agreed that this should be used for any transactions over £250. The Chairman explained the process in detail going through the instructions on the form. This process will ensure that the tendering formalities will be consistent and fair and all unopened submissions will be held by the Clerk. Mr Elsden pointed out the impact to the new Clerk's workload and it was agreed that the £250.00 ceiling should be reviewed once the tendering process was in place. The Chairman confirmed the precept had been submitted but no response received to date.

2000 12 05 Stretham Parish Council Minutes
Millennium History Group
The Chairman read out the interim response from CALC who were concerned about Section 137. It was felt that the Parish Council had expected a grant to cover some of the cost (50% of the cost and a cheque for £3073.00 had been received) Mr Langford asked about the amount of the grant and the Chairman will confirm the details. Very few of the existing Councillors were on the Parish Council when all the details were originally agreed but it was generally felt that the over extending of the Council's authority would have been done innocently. Mr Wood pointed out that the grant and the sale of the brochures would go towards reducing the amount paid out. Mrs Johnson confirmed there were some booklets left and Mr Wakefield had submitted a cheque for £ 52.50 for some he had sold. Mrs Johnson had asked Mr Petty for a copy of the written agreement although all that was produced was a proposal document. The councillors who were on the Council in January 1999 were of the understanding that this had been agreed at the time. The Chairman advised that to pursue this further CALC needed some more details and that they would provide free advice on all issues regarding the contract except for the copyright issue. Free advice for this could be gained from ECDC legal dept. He would like to ensure that the copyright issue is regularised and he felt that the sale of the CD ROMs and books was against the spirit of the original agreement.
Mrs Johnson thought that the Associates had produced very good material and had provided very interesting presentations (free) which were appreciated by many Villagers with very positive

comments. It was agreed that everyone was happy with the output from the Project and the Chairman made it very clear that as with his comments in the past, he thought it was an excellent product and there was no doubt that the expectations for what was to be produced were met. The issue he had was that the copyright was not what was originally intended. Ms Parish suggested that enough time had been given to this matter at this and previous meetings and that a decision should be made to finally resolve it. The Chairman was very uncomfortable with the situation as he would find it very difficult to justify the situation if required by external auditors. Mr Wood was concerned that Mr Petty may not return to the Council if this wasn't resolved and that the royalties for the CD ROMs and Books would be very small. Mrs Johnson explained the views of the sub Committee who felt the matter should be resolved promptly as there was no benefit in investigating further as it was now a 'fait accompli'. She had rung round to ask the Councillors to come to the meeting with this in mind to save more time in discussion. She apologised that she had not contacted the Chairman but gave the views of Mr Peacock who was unable to attend the meeting. At this point the Chairman felt he could no longer act as Chair for any further discussion on the subject as was totally opposed to the principle Mr Langford took the Chair.
Mrs Day put forward a proposal for a compromise that the Parish Council should claim half the cost of the CD ROMs and books as these quite clearly state joint copyright. The Parish Council had commissioned and paid for the research and therefore the content. This was seconded by Mr Elsden. Mrs Johnson proposed that no further action should be taken with the Associates. This was seconded by Ms Parish. This second proposal was carried by a vote of 4 to 2 (Mrs Day, Mr Elsden) with Mr
Langford abstaining. It was therefore carried that no further action be taken. Mr Roberts took back the Chair at this point.

Land off Wood Lane, Stretham (Cemetery Approach Road)
The Clerk had met with Archer and Archer Solicitors on this matter. They advised that the Parish Council should await developments and then decide on conditions to impose.

Recreation Ground - Mr Elsden explained that the Recycling area on the corner of Short Road was completed and awaiting the arrival of the containers. The earth around the ditch and the main entrance gate and fencing needs to be improved. It was agreed unanimously that the Sub-Committee be empowered to deal with these issues up to the ceiling of £250.00.
The grass cycle track will need the hire of a digger to complete. Mr Elsden will co-ordinate and put some proposals to the sub-Committee for approval.
Village Amenities - Mr Elsden confirmed that the Ely Play area was now been turfed and fenced to avoid use until stabilised. He would like to arrange for stepping stones to be placed there to stop football and other activities likely to ruin the grass. These will not affect the grass cutting.

Planning - Mrs Johnson left the meeting at this stage as she declared an interest
E/00/0940/F for demolition of existing and creation of an extension at Chapel Street
E/00/0928/F for creation of kitchen extension at the Crofters
E/00/0913/LE was a certificate of Lawfulness of existing use and Mr Langford will confirm back to the Planning Dept that the Parish Council has no knowledge of whether footings were dug.
Mrs Johnson returned to the meeting at this point.
Public Participation :
The Chairman thanked the District Councillor for her contribution to the meeting.
Finance :
It was proposed by Ms Parish, seconded by Mr Jeal that the following accounts be passed for payment :-

British Legion	Remembrance Day wreath	15.00	Cheque No 000232
Neaves and Neat	Oct Newsletter	78.86	" 000233
Tindalls	Stationery	22.97	" 000234
Anglian Water	Cemetery Rates 10/6-10/12/00	21.15	Cheque No 00023 5
Cambridgeshire Turf Nurseries	Ely Rd Play Area turfing	998.75	" 000236

Country Grounds	Quarterly account	636.51	"	000237
Mrs Day	Refreshments for Millennium Project	30.68	"	000238
BPDunn	Nov Salary & expenses	170.59	"	000239
Inland Revenue	Tax on Clerk's salary Nov	46.31		000240

Mrs Johnson explained that the Archaeological survey as part of the Millennium History Project had not yet been completed. Mr M Young and Mr D Ball apologised but this was due to the weather primarily. They hoped to have this ready in the New Year. They were to produce small booklets to match the previous one delivered to all Villagers and the information would be inserted in the Parish Council's 10 folders. 5 additional copies would be given to the County Architecture Dept., the County Records Office, Ely Museum and 2 to farmers whose land was accessed. They were currently investigating whether this could be added to the CD ROM's. The Chairman handed over the Chair to Mr Langford at this point. The copyright issue was questioned and Mrs Johnson confirmed that the University of Cambridge had waived their right to copyright as long as the information was not sold on, to the Parish Council.
There would be no additional charge as included in the original costings other than travel expenses which were expected to be between £700 and £800. Mr Roberts questioned whether there should be any documentation to support this and Ms Parish confirmed that this had been agreed at the outset although the minutes would need to be checked. Mr Langford agreed to do this. Mrs Johnson was asked to obtain a written waiver from Cambridge University and to ensure the copyright was documented in the booklet. Mr Roberts took back the Chair.
Mr Wakefield explained he had given Mrs Johnson a cheque for £52.50 as he had sold some booklets. She will pass this on to the Clerk to bank.

-o-o-2001-o-o-

2001 01 09 PC
Millennium History Group - Mr. Wakefield handed over a cheque for sale of the booklets by Burrows Bookshop. Mr. Wood handed over £10 for the sale of booklets. The matter of the copy lefl at the Library would be dealt with at a later date.
Cambridgeshire County Council - Notice informing us of the proposed revocation of the weight restrictions on the Stretham Engine Bridge. No objections were raised to this proposal.
Footpaths - Mr. Wakefield reported that the new footbridge on Footpath 6 across the A10 had been installed.
Short Road Play Area It was agreed that further play equipment should be provided. One zig zag beam, and one set of stepping logs would be provided. The cost of clearing soil, removing trees etc. around the Recreation Ground would cost £468.
Village Amenities Sub-Committee Ely Road play area. It was agreed that further equipment be installed to prevent football being played on the vacant grass. One set of stepping logs, one zig zag beam, one clamber ramp to be fixed to the existing equipment and one set of swinging logs would be provided. Mr. Elsden had been able to negotiate a total cost of all the above equipment of £2200. It was proposed by Mr. Peacock and seconded by Mr. Wood that the above price be agreed. All in favour. The work should be carried out within the next three/four weeks.
Planning
Barn - Chapel Street - Minor alterations to the plan had been received and no objections were raised.
16 Read Street- Demolition of buildings and extension - No objections raised. Re-alignment of house wall Chapel Street no objections raised.
Mr. Jeal - Red Millennium folders -The school had requested permission to keep the folder on a permanent basis.
The question of the storage of the Award Map and Box was raised as the Clerk has no safe place to store it. Mr. Langford agreed to hold this if required.

2001 09 20

Princess Anne visits National Autistic Society's Juniper House to plant juniper tree 2001 09 20ES

2001 10 18
Five-bed luxury home just the ticket for railway enthusiasts – Stretham station converted into luxury home by Jeff and Beverley Stevens; have spent 12 months living in caravan while they restored it. The ticket office and waiting room had been locked up since station made redundant in 1963. Now the ticket office is a study, the waiting room with the original open fire and mantelpiece is playroom for their four children. Had four reception rooms, two bathrooms, seven stables, two barns and a menage and on sale for £249,950. pic – station, Beverley Stevens, neg 0009722 CNC

2001 11 16
Council vacancy on Parish Council as Margaret Batchelor stands down

-o-o-2002-o-o-
2002 06 17
Wild west is comin' yer way – play with music by Ken Ellis; pic – Alison Goad, Helen Taylor, Barbara Gray CNC

2002 06 24
Change to air library views: councillor to meet residents on Mobile Library CNC

-o-o-2003-o-o-
Projects win £25,000 cash boost – includes funds for repair to Stretham Engine CNC

2003 11 20

-o-o-2004-o-o-
Development looms – 23 homes for key workers alongside private housing on farmyard site in Newmarket Road by Dudley Developments; objections CNC

2002 08 16
Church may gain from sale of hall – church hall could be sold or leased to parish council CNC

2003 11 20
Stretham Engine awarded grant by Wren, landfill tax. To be used to restore chimney and scoop wheel. CNC

-o-o-2004-o-o-
2004 01 06
A housing scheme with most of the homes available solely for key workers looks set to be approved. The development on a former farmyard in Stretham will be the first of its kind in the district to offer housing for key workers alongside private housing. Twenty of the 28 homes – 13 two-bed and 15 three-bed – will be for key workers. Homes have been designed to reflect the character of neighbouring houses. ECDC officers say 'This proposal provides good use of a derelict farmyard providing much-needed key-worker housing. The scheme has been designed to enhance the character of the village. There have been a number of objections. Meadowcroft residents are concerned and Stretham Parish Council think access on this stretch of the A1123 is extremely dangerous. CNC

2004 09 01
Community Hall plan is Scrapped –Residents are celebrating after winning a last-minute battle to save their community hall. A planning application was submitted to change the use of Stretham Church Hall and Parish Rooms to a residential property, but the plans were refused following an outcry from residents. The important community facility is used every night of the week by a

number of local organisations and groups. After hearing about the proposals villagers appealed against the plans. A petition had obtained 353 signatures. District planning offers agreed the plans should be refused. Stretham Parochial Church Council said the application had been submitted to establish the value of the property which it hopes to sell or lease to the Parish Council. However residents had feared that if the Parish Council did not take over the building it could be sold to a private buyer for redevelopment and lost to the community. 2004 09 01 CNC

2004 11 08
Council rejects housing plan for four houses at rear Orchard House by WRB Restoration and Development CNC

-o-o-2005-o-o-

2005 02 09
Highways officials do a U-turn: speed restriction measures scrapped on Newmarket Road; a mini-roundabout was due to have been introduced as part of a development of 28 new homes together with gateways, flashing signs and enhanced road markings. Most of the homes already built and the 14 key workers homes were urgently required. CNC

2005 05 14
Village feast fun: games and stalls on Recreation green, proceeds for Air Ambulance

-o-o-2007-o-o-

2007 06 21
Mother charged with murdering daughters, Kumari-Baker CWN [cutt]

-o-o-2008-o-o-

2008 01 30
Historic B&B – Stoker's Cottage at Engine restored by the Landmark Trust. CNC

2008 11 24
Bells continue to ring after £199,000 refurbishment with new bell-ringing platform. Some of the pews have been removed to provide flexible spaces for worship and other activities while two toilets and a kitchen have been fitted. The tower floor has been lowered to allow disabled access and part of the church screened off to make a meeting room. The project was funded by the sale of the church hall to the parish council to be used as a village hall. The first new venture is 'Little Bears' for mothers and carers with babies and small children. Pic – Vicar Pauline Scott - neg 52247 CNC

-o-o-2009-o-o-

2009
Standard bearers tribute to Legion stalwart – Geoff Russell [cutt]

2009 09 08
I've killed the kids – headline CN [cutt]

2009 09 22
Murder – mother guilty – CN [cutt]

2009 09 22
Jean Adamson hurt in terrifying attack – [cutt]

-o-o- 2011 –o-o-

2011 02 10
Thieves wreck hall stealing pipework – Church Hall all the piping has been ripped out and they've vandalised the place as they went about it. The hall is used by almost everybody – the W.I., Stretham Players, local karate group … ballet, line dancing and much more. We've now got to rip up all the wooden flooring and wait for the building to dry out. The Parish Council bought the building about three years ago for the whole community to use. District councillor Bill Hunt said 'The money came after much discussion from the local council tax payers. – pic – hall interior CNC

2011 04 29
Village gets set to serve up its annual Feast … farmers' market, concert, parade CNC

2011 07 18
E.C.D.C 'Have your say on the future of Stretham' survey results questionnaire results: 13 responses from 780 dwellings – 2%

2011 09 13
Tribute to brothers Ashley and Luke Yardy drowned at Kingfisher Bridge whilst trying to rescue injured birds– 2011 09 13 [scan]

-o-o- 2012 –o-o-

2012 09 15
Gary Murfitt wedding, meets US President George Bush senior – CEN 15 Sep 2012 [cutt]

-o-o- 2013 –o-o-

2013 05 17
Couple fed up of sewage problems – photo – Richard & Brenda Sired live in Sanctuary Housing in Brook Lane … both disabled and cannot do anything about the leaks which have flooded their bathroom floor. The problems have been going on for the 20 years they have lived in their bungalow CEN

2013 05 22 Wilburton Annual Parish Meeting
5. Reports from County and District Councillors.
Councillor Bill Hunt gave his reports as follows
He believes that the Community Land Trusts are a very exciting route to give local homes, run by local people, controlled by local people to local people.
6. Community Land Trust Scheme
Councillor Dodson confirmed that things were starting to move with the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust thanks to Phil Rose and Charles Roberts who have moved things forward considerably. Phil Rose is currently negotiating with land owners around Wilburton, although not progressed as much as hoped.
A piece of land which is owned by one of the Colleges, has been negotiated for development at the far side of Stretham linking onto the Wicken Road. A grant was obtained for a questionnaire/survey of the residents/groups etc in Stretham from which a planning application was put together and will be submitted after the public meeting on Saturday 25th May 2013. The piece of land could potentially hold 240 houses, but the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust negotiated with the developer to build only 50, of which 15 will be SWCLT, not in a row and no different to the others. There will also be a multifunctional unit which will encompass a doctor's surgery and rooms for physiotherapists and district nurses etc. Possibility of another building for pre-school and 2-3 to rent out. All units will be rented from SWCLT so will be revenue for the Scheme.
There are 4 trustees for Wilburton Parish Council (Paul Freeman, Peter Warren, Anthea Dodson and

Tracy Newman), 4 for Stretham Parish Council and 4 community trustees (at present Dr Aniskowicz)
There is also an interested member that attends the meetings who is a solicitor and who goes through the policies and procedures to make sure everything is correct and in place to run efficiently. East Cambs District Council have put monies aside for borrowing for the Trust to bid for. There will be a mixture of properties owned by the trust for rent, and the decision on who rents them will be made by a group of the trustees, which will be a balanced group, weighted to Stretham for properties in Stretham and weighted towards Wilburton for properties in Wilburton. This scheme gives us control over how the village develops, no developments can be made outside the envelope without us having a say in it, an amount of control over it and a financial benefit from it
8. Any other business
A local resident felt that to have a surgery at the proposed Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust site is too far out of Stretham and needs to be in the centre of the village. Councillor Dodson will raise at the next meeting.

2013 06 28
Inferno sparked by burning rubbish; the smoke was so thick … we're all in shock: massive fire at Masters Logistical Services, Ely Road, Stretham. Photos by Mike Petty. 2013 06 28 CN

2013 06 29
Inferno sparked by burning rubbish – industrial warehouse, Ely Road [scan]

2013 06 20
Community Trust scoops gong from National CLT Conference, for work since 2011 when residents approached Foundation East, a community finance body, for help establishing Cambridgeshire's first CLT. A planning application is to be submitted, including a new doctor's surgery

2013 07 08 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes
Report from Councillor Bill Hunt - SWCLT are starting to win awards and has been mentioned in Parliament.

2013 08 24
Chaos as two water mains burst within same week, MJP photo [scan]

2013 10 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes
Councillor Dodson updated the Council on the SWCLT and showed them some copies of plans for the Stretham development that were being proposed to be put in for planning permission. Councillors were reminded of the commercial sensitivity of these plans and pointed out that they were confidential for the Councillors information only.

-o-o-2014-o-o

[Stories listed on Cambridge News website; first is]

2014 01 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes
(e) Community Land Trust
Councillor Dodson confirmed that she is a Trustee and Vice chair for the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust Scheme, however three other trustees have recently stepped down and new Trustees are required from both Councillors and community.
Resolved: - It was proposed by Councillor Dodson and seconded by Councillor Fella that Councillor Charles Roberts be invited to the next meeting for a 15 minute slot to discuss the scheme. All in favour.
Action Point: - Councillor Dodson to contact Councillor Roberts to see if he is able to attend.

2014 02 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes

040214. Reports from County and District Councillors.
Councillor Roberts attended to discuss the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust Scheme He gave a copy of the presentation made last year at the National Community Land Trust conference to put into context for new Councillors what the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust Scheme is, sets out particular concerns in ward and how parish and district councillors responded.
East Cambs had 5200 new homes built in last 10 years, and 10,000 planned for next 18 years. District and County Councillors are actively encouraging business and growth but want the infrastructure that goes with it. Currently there are high levels of out-commuting, in 2001, 49% out commuted outside of
East Cambs. The figure for 2007 suggests a rise to 67%. The Ely by pass and changes to A14 will have a significant effect on the A10, which will have an effect on house prices in Stretham and Wilburton.
The ongoing effect will be low paid local community (nurses, policemen, hairdressers etc) and agricultural workers will be displaced by commuters. National Housing Federation suggests that rent or mortgage payments should not be more than 1/3rd of income which is not affordable in this area, especially for younger members of the community.
In late 2011 Stretham and Wilburton Parish Councils set up a £6000 budget between them to explore possibility of setting up a Community Land Trust Scheme. Foundation East appointed as consultants, (Eastern Region Community Land Trust champions) and set up Parish Councils' working party which was the start of what is now Stretham Wilburton Community Land Trust. Received grant of £5000 from National Community Land Trust. Put out a call for land and sites were prioritised for suitability and availability in 2012 in both Stretham and Wilburton and site which became most likely to be deliverable was Manor farm in Stretham (owned by Peterhouse College) which is the site that has now gone forward to planning, which has been designed to very high specifications. Trust took lots of legal advice on how it was set up on a democratic structure basis which allows Community Land Trust, as an Industrial Provident Society, absolute running control by its members and assets set in perpetuity for the benefit of Stretham and Wilburton. Core of the Community Land Trust is to provide affordable homes for people who live and work in the Villages, together with business opportunities (rental units). Wilburton Parish Council and Trustees for Wilburton have a higher influence regarding properties in Wilburton and vice versa with Stretham. Stretham were able to benefit from some extra grants which helped with community consultations. Wilburton have a list of prioritised sites provided by the District Council and land cannot be developed outside the envelope without the involvement of the Stretham Wilburton Community Land Trust, whoever more trustees are needed from Wilburton, (residents can become community members for £1.00).
Councillor Reynolds requested confirmation that the Scheme was wholly for the benefit of Stretham and Wilburton, not like some Housing Associations that did not give priority to locals.
Councillor Forsyth asked what the exposure to Wilburton Parish Council was if things went wrong and it was confirmed that this would be the amount of £3,000 originally put into Scheme and could decide.
Councillor Forsyth asked several questions regarding the community benefits attached to the Stretham site and where the community benefits should be attributed.

2014 01 07 PC
Councillor Parish updated the Council on the £6,000 loan that the Council agreed to lend Stretham Youth Club at the December 2013 meeting. Councillor Parish confirmed that the loan is now not required and thanked the Council for the kind offer.

A letter from Mr J Kisby was read out in relation to the gaps in the trees on the north side of Mill Way between Stretham and Wilburton. Mr Kisby reminded the Council that most of the current trees were planted by the Council in 1972 and 1973. Councillor Parish is arranging a meeting with Mr Fountain regarding stage II of the Jubilee Tree Project and agreed to take a look with a view to filling the gaps. The Clerk to respond

An email from Mr T Starkie was read out regarding his concerns about the proposed increase to the 2014/15 precept in Stretham. The decision to increase the precept was debated considerably by both the Finance Sub-Committee and full Council and detailed budgets were used to guide the Council on the money required to maintain the village. Every effort is made to secure income in other ways, the Clerk will respond.

The Council requested the Clerk make enquiries with regards to the boat moorings on the river at Green End. In particular has any permission been granted. There is a considerable number of people living on the river which increases the traffic considerably on the single track.

2014 02 04 PC
To progress Ely Road Playpark refurbishment. Councillor Parish updated the meeting. Councillor Parish and the Clerk have received the report from the Funding Doctors and further consultation with the community and school is required. It was agreed to form a Working Party with representatives from the village, school, youth club and any other organisations wishing to join. This will be covered in the Newsletter. The Council resolved to budget £2000 towards the refurbishment, this was proposed by Councillor Simpson and seconded by Councillor Paddock, all in favour. The Council also agreed to write to Stretham Charity requesting they consider a donation towards the refurbishment

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. The planning application for Manor Farm has been submitted. Legal agreements are being finalised. Wilburton Parish Council will soon by appointing some new Trustees

2014 02 22 p65
… the A1123 was closed in Stretham following a two vehicle crash …

2014 02 26 p8
… innovative plans to build 50 homes and a doctor's surgery …

2014 03 01 p10
Rachel Elizabeth Mason, nee Gillet … formerly of Stretham passed away …

2014 03 04 p26
… at Newmarket Road, Stretham is an unusual terraced property …

2014 03 04 PC
A reply to the letter sent to Enforcement at ECDC regarding planning conditions on Saunders Piece was read out. The site is allowed 5 caravans to be pitched at any one time and there is no restriction on the amount of time they can stay. The Council instructed the Clerk to ask further questions regarding if the site was ever approved as a residential site and also asking for investigations around the settlement behind the toilet block.
Land parcel to the East of Meadowcroft, Stretham. New development to include: 35 new private marketing housing units, 15 new affordable CLT owned housing units, new doctors surgery, 3 business premises within CLT owned units and a 0.24ha extension to existing cemetery
The Council resolved to raise no objections to this application.

SWCLT. The planning application for Manor Farm has been submitted and comments should be submitted by 18th March 2014. The Council has been invited to the SWCLT AGM on Tuesday 25th March 2014 at 8pm at the Pavilion.

A letter has been received from Stop Berry Fen Wind Farm (SBFWF) group looking for the support of the Council is opposing a wind farm being built between Haddenham and Aldreth. Stretham

Parish Council has already opposed a possible wind farm application close to Stretham and fully supports the efforts of SBFWF. The Clerk will send a letter of support.

A letter from Hundred Houses Society has been received inviting the Parish Council to the opening of the new development on Wilburton Road. The Council has opposed this development throughout the whole process and declined to attend.

Councillor Langford has received a verbal complaint regarding the amount of Parish Council news noted in the Parish Newsletter. It is felt there is not enough. The Clerk agreed to put more information in. It was also mentioned that the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings are not on the website, the Clerk will arrange for the files to be uploaded as soon as possible.

2014 03 24 p38
… that a drain needed for Stretham council houses should run inside the recreation ground and join up …

2014 04 01 PC
A response to the further questions regarding the Saunders Piece Caravan site has been received. The question asked if the site was ever approved as a residential site and also asking for investigations around the settlement behind the toilet block. Enforcement confirmed there is no approval for the site to be used for long term residential however as the site has been approved by the Camping and Caravan Club, there is no restriction on the amount of time caravans can be pitched at the site. Enforcement will look into the settlement behind the toilet block.

To consider proposed tree works at Ely Road Play Park. The Clerk has met with the Senior Tree Officer from ECDC, Cathy White, to discuss the trees at Ely Road Play Park and explain the problems that are caused to the surface due to the canopy of the trees covering the area. Ms White has made some recommendations that were shared with the Council. After discussion, it was agreed to put the job out to tender and then approach ECDC for half of the money as they own the land/trees.

To consider B Veal Farming tenancy/rent situation and agree next steps. Correspondence was read from the Council's lawyers suggesting a breach of the Terms of the tenancy agreement between Mr R J Veal and Stretham Parish Council. A letter from Mrs E A Veal was read out offering an increase to £85 per acre. The whole matter was discussed in the detail and at length by the Council. It was firstly agreed that the increased offer of £85 per acre was too low as the Council has a responsibility to achieve its maximum rental potential and must satisfy the Auditor's requirements to do so. The Council then resolved to instruct Ashton KCJ to issue a Notice to Quit on the current AHA Tenancy between Mr R J Veal and Stretham Parish Council. This was proposed by Councillor Speed and seconded by Councillor Paddock. All Councillors voted unanimously in favour of this resolution.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. The SWCLT AGM has just taken place and was very positive. Mr David Roth has joined as a Trustee of SWCLT and will particularly focus on the financial side of affairs. The issues around the access through Plantation Gate were explained to the Council. A planning decision is expected in June where the Planning Application will be put forward to the Planning Committee. If the application is successful, it is hoped work will start by the end of 2014.

Footpaths - Cambridgeshire County Council has donated some new ‘kissing’ gates to be installed in and around Stretham on the footpaths. Councillor Petherick confirmed that Palmers the Farmers have kindly agreed to install the gates for free.

2014 04 07 p33

… have been rubberstamped. However villagers at Stretham and Wilburton will continue to fight proposals …

2014 04 07 p10
… [Tina Fell] at Stretham community primary school for almost three decades said goodbye to colleagues … retiring

2014 04 16 p19
… Berry Green farm passed peacefully away aged 92 years …

2014 04 18 p13
Another solar farm in pipeline … another mammoth solar farm could be on its way to the village of Stretham …

2014 05 02
A few years ago in the row of houses where my mother lived in Stretham, (about 30 houses), two lived to be over 100, my mother 104 and another lady 102. There were also seven females who lived to be over 90. At present there are six or seven who are over 90 in Stretham. Two others, in care homes, celebrated 100th birthdays – letter 2014 05 02

2014 05 06 PC
Councillor Speed enquired as to whether the conditions have been discharged on the Lee Development. It was explained that the properties are now all occupied despite the fact the conditions are still not discharged. It was agreed to write a letter to the Planning Department at East Cambridgeshire District Council stating the Council's disappointment at the handling of this planning application/approval.

To consider cleaning of war memorials in Stretham. Councillor Parish explained that a member of the Feast Sub-Committee raised the possibility that the two war memorials in the village should receive a clean this year to mark the commemoration of the start of the Great War. It was agreed the Clerk would obtain some quotes for this work for consideration. It was noted that there is a Stone Mason at Wilburton who should be approached.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. The planning decision is awaited in June. Negotiation on the Dudley/Sennitt land to the south of Manor Farm is currently taking place

An email from Kathryn Brown on behalf of Chris Attle has been received regarding the proposed wind turbines at Redhill Farm on land to the south of Stretham. There will be a Public Consultation take place at the Pavilion on Wednesday 28th May between 3pm and 7pm. It was agreed that all Councillors will attend the consultation to form an opinion in readiness for discussion at the June meeting when this topic will be placed on the Agenda. Clerk to request copies of the photomontage to view at the next Council meeting. Clerk to invite the Stop Berry Fen Wind Farm group to the next meeting.

Councillor Parish invited all Councillors and the Clerk to the opening of the Youth Centre on Wednesday 21st May 2014.

2014 05 14 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes
040714. Reports from County and District Councillors.
A report from Councillor Hunt was received as follows:
He believes that the Community Land Trusts are a very exciting route to give local homes, run by local people, controlled by local people to local people
Wilburton 14 - Community Led Plan
Councillor Reynolds confirmed that the above scheme had been set up and was an opportunity for residents to voice their opinion for what they want in Wilburton. It will be launched at the Beer

Festival with suggestion boxes around village for questionnaires to be completed, and information provided on Facebook and the Parish Council's Website. It is a starting point for gathering evidence of what is wanted as a village by the residents and a plan and springboard for funding will come from this information. The Plan (which will be a 5 year plan) will then to be handed back to the Parish Council to try and implement.

2014 06 07 p8
… emergency services including the East Anglian Air Ambulance were called to Cambridge Road, Stretham …

2014 06 03 p17
Stretham youth centre has formally opened its doors after refurbishment, Janet Parish …

2014 06 03 PC
The Council has received information from Cambridgeshire County Council that they will be considering piping footpath 11 and covering over the ditch. After discussion, the Council voted on a proposal to leave the ditch uncovered and patch up the footpath. Four out of the 7 councillors were in favour and this decision was carried. The Clerk to request a patch up job and to leave the ditch as it is.

To discuss the Redhill Wind Farm proposals following on from the Public Consultation meeting. A number of Councillors and the Clerk had managed to attend the Public Consultation on the two proposed 100m high wind turbines at Redhill Farm. The Clerk produced the material which she has received on the proposed turbines and circulated the information. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed there is absolutely no merit to having two wind turbines so close to Stretham and the Council is very concerned at this prospect. The Council is not against renewable energy after supporting local solar farms however the turbines are obtrusive and unwanted. It was agreed to put an insert into the June newsletter to see what the village thinks and with the possibility of setting up a group much like the Stop Berry Fen Wind Farm Group. The Clerk was asked to write to ECDC to ensure the Council is consulted on all wind farm applications in a 10 mile radius of Stretham and also to vehemently oppose the Redhill Wind farm proposal.

An email from Stretham Sporting was received requesting a reduction in the amount of rent they pay to the Council as the number of teams has reduced. The rent paid was only reviewed in February and it was agreed that the rent would not be reduced at this stage in time. The Clerk was also asked to communicate that no equipment/materials belonging to Stretham Sporting should be stored in the changing rooms. This follows on from some issues on Feast Day.

Amenities – Councillor Parish reported that the dog poo pick organised at the beginning of May collected over 190 deposits. Councillor Murfitt reported that a child had recently fell over in some dog mess on the recreation ground. It was agreed to inform people via the newsletters that they can report persistent offenders to the Clerk anonymously. Doggie bags will also be hung on the bins for people to use.

New Ely Road Play Area – good progress is being made with the NERPAP project. The sub-committee is currently waiting for a response from the Assets Committee on a new lease on the land. Questionnaires are about to be sent out to all children in the village via the school and other village community groups.

2014 06 12 p13
… of Top Street admitted possession of a class A drug

2014 06 19 p16

… wants to open new recording studios in Stretham Road …

2014 06 19 p18
… of thanks to this year's Stretham Feast parade …

2014 07 01 PC
To discuss the Redhill Windfarm proposal and update on progress . A total of 6 people responded to the flyer which was enclosed with the June Newsletter about the Redhill Windfarm proposal. It was agreed to host a meeting and Councillors Prevett and Parish agreed to attend and also represent the Council at future meetings. The Stop Berry Fen Wind Farm group will be invited to the initial meeting. It is still very uncertain if there is actually grid capacity and a connection available. The Clerk was asked to write to ECDC with this question.

To consider tenders for cleaning of the war memorials. The following tenders were received:

Ivett & Read	Declined to tender
P A Hibble	Declined to tender
Cambridge Stonecraft	£941.00

It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Sandland to accept the tender from Cambridge Stonecraft of £941.00. The Council voted to accept the Cambridge Stonecraft tender. The Clerk was asked to investigate grants available for this work.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. the planning application for Manor Farm will go forward for decision at the Planning Committee meeting tomorrow (2nd July). Councillors were encouraged to attend. The application has been written up for approval.

Amenities Working Party – Councillor Parish reported that problems had been experienced at the Parish Rooms with a booking on Saturday 28th June 2014. A small table was damaged beyond repair, the ladies toilet door had been damaged and the tables and chairs had been left out and the venue required extra time cleaning. The Caretaker had spent an additional 2.5 hours cleaning the venue. The Clerk reported that the £200 deposit cheque had been banked and that she would be writing to Mr Coupland (the hirer) with a breakdown of the damage and costs to repair.

New Ely Road Play Area Sub-Committee–the Questionnaires have now been sent out to all children in the village via the school and other village community groups and are due for return by 23rd July at which point they will be assessed and summarised by Brian Attaway. Councillor Parish reported that a verbal price to buy the land which the play area is situated on had been made indirectly in the sum of £2500. The Sub-Committee took the decision to decline this offer if it is made formal in favour of a new lengthy lease. Full Council called this decision into question and a lengthy discussion around the powers and role of sub-Committees took place and the benefits of purchasing the land. The Clerk was asked to provide clarification on the role and powers of a Sub-Committee at the next meeting and also to place the discussion/decision on purchase or lease on the Agenda if and when a formal offer is made. Councillor Parish was upset by this decision.
Councillor Taylor informed the meeting that Stretham Players has reformed which the Council all agreed is great news. Stretham Players will now be putting on the Panto in February 2015 however the cost of hiring the Parish Rooms for all the rehearsals and performances was not possible with the money available. It was proposed by Councillor Patherick to allow Stretham Players to use the Parish Rooms for the cost of 50p per each ticket sold for the performances. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Speed and all Councillors voted unanimously in favour.

2014 07 02 SN364
East Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee 2014 07 02 Agenda Item 8 – Page 1
The full report is filed at SN364; what follows is a selection
1.1 This is a full application which seeks consent for a community led scheme brought forward by the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust (SWCLT). 15 affordable houses are proposed,

35 market houses and community benefits. 1.2 A number of objections have been received regarding the application, the majority of which relate to access to the site.
Applicant: The Stretham & Wilburton Community Land Trust
Agent: Haysom Ward Miller Chartered Architects
1.7 RECOMMENDATION
That the application is APPROVED in principle subject to the following matters being addressed and reported back to the Planning Committee for final agreement:
• Further work to be carried out on access to the site for all phases of the development and means of ensuring safe highways, maintained in perpetuity by a recognised management body.
• Further archaeological survey work being carried out on the site Subject to satisfactory Heads of Terms and S106 agreement to ensure:
• delivery of affordable housing elements and community facilities and,
• trigger points for phasing of the development and
• Tenure and affordable housing matters as outlined in the Housing officers report
2.0 THE APPLICATION
The application seeks consent for a community led scheme brought forward by the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust (SWCLT). 15 affordable houses are proposed and in order to deliver the scheme, 35 Market houses. In addition to the affordable housing the community benefits provided are:
• A GP surgery of some 200m2 owned by the CLT which will be able to offer an extended range of health services from a larger facility which can offer security of tenure
• 4 x small starter business units (each 100m2) which will be let to local businesses,
• Land for extension to the cemetery (0.24ha), communal open space (1.08ha) and new footpaths and cycleway.
Access to the site is via Plantation Gate and Newmarket Road with a hierarchy of Streets being within the development. Different types of road surface will indicate the importance of the access. The Streets would be tarmac, the tracks in bound gravel and the minor areas in loose gravel bound in an egg crate type structure. Development is centred on a triangular shaped area of open space. A buffer zone of some 22 – 46m is proposed between the rear of properties in Meadowcroft and the new units. There will be two dwellings facing Newmarket Road at this entrance to the site.
Agenda Item 8 – Page 3
There are 12 house types proposed with the affordable units scattered throughout the development. It is proposed to phase delivery of the scheme.
In the first phase the principle access routes will be provided. This will involve upgrading and continuation of Plantation Gate, the new access from Newmarket Road forming Street 1 (with its one way loop at the northern end), formation of Street 2 and the gravel area linking the 1 and 2. A total of 20 dwellings will be provided comprising 7 affordable dwellings (3 x 2bed terrace, 2 x 3bed terrace, 1 x 2 bed cottage and 1 x 2/3 bed bungalow) and 13 private market houses (4 x 4 bed detached, 3 x 3 bed cottage, 2 x 1/2 bed cottage, 2 x 3 bed terrace, 1 x 2/3 bed bungalow 1 x 5 bed detached). It is expected that Phase 1 will take a year to build out, Phase II completed 2016 and phase III 2017.
The second phase will deliver the doctors surgery, and a mix of 10 market dwellings (two of which will be located adjacent to Newmarket Road) and 3 affordable units. The mix of dwellings in the second phase of the affordable housing provision comprises 2 x 2bed terrace and 1 x 3 bed terrace. The market housing provision in phase 2 is 3 x 5 bed detached, 3x 4 bed detached, 1 x 3 bed bungalow, 2x 3 bed terrace and 1 x 3 bed detached.
The third phase will deliver 12 market dwellings, 5 affordable units and the 3 commercial units. The mix of affordable housing provision in this phase will be 1 x 3 bed terrace, 1 x 4 bed terrace, 1 x 2 bed cottage, 1 x 2/3 bed bungalow and 1 x 3 bed detached. The mix of market housing will be 3 x 4 bed terrace, 2 x 4 bed detached, 2 x 3 bed detached, 2 x 3 bed cottage, 1 x 2/3 bed bungalow, 1 x 1/2 bed cottage and 1 x 5 bed detached.
The layout of the site has taken account of the street hierarchy within the village together with initial public consultation responses in relation to position and grouping of buildings on the street, patterns of enclosure and the relationship between public and private spaces. The majority of buildings have their principle elevation facing the street with the occasional blank gable wall. There is a good mix

of heights and groupings around the village green area. Parking spaces are provided either in covered garages attached to the dwelling, covered garages separate from the dwelling, on street parking and off street rear garage courts.
There is parking provision for the doctor's surgery and works units.
6.0 REPLIES TO CONSULTATIONS
6.1 Stretham Parish Council – No concerns
6.5 Housing Officer - We have assessed the local affordable housing need from the housing waiting lists, and from the results of the consultation carried out on behalf of the applicant, and confirm that the proposal for 15 affordable homes is appropriate to the need. The range of dwelling sizes and the types and rented tenure proposed is suitable to address the identified need.
6.7 Local Highway Authority –Issues remain regarding Plantation Gate access and adoption of Street 2, Tracks 1 and 2 and Farm vehicle access through the proposal to highway network.
6.11 Neighbour Objections – Objections have been received from the following neighbours
1, 3, 5, 9, 15, 21, Plantation Gate, 21,24, 29 Meadowcroft, 5 19 Kitson Gardens, 13A Reads Street, 24 Sennitt Way, Mill Lodge, 12B, 14, Brook Lane, 19 Newmarket Road, 20 Short Road, 1, 4 Oak Drive, Dudley Developments, 20 High Street Wicken.
Access/ Highway safety
Objections were raised at the community consultation event on 1/6/13 when it was proposed to allow vehicle access to the site along Plantation Gate but these have been ignored. Plantation Gate is a narrow single track road without footways. Houses in Plantation Gate directly abut the road. Any cars stopping in front of these houses to load/unload their vehicles will block Plantation Gate. This route is well used by pedestrians, and cyclists and the whole access for vehicles via Plantation Gate as a one way system is inadequate for pedestrians and wheelchairs and poorly thought out.
Plantation Gate should be made pedestrian and cycle only with only one vehicular access from Newmarket Road. The Transport statement estimates that there will be an additional 60 vehicle movements per hour at peak times and this will have minimal impact. Plantation Gate currently has 10 – 20 vehicular movements per day. The increase in traffic would have a big impact on Plantation Gate.
This scheme will become a rat run through the village.
The increase in traffic in addition to existing heavy farm traffic is of concern. Increase in traffic along entire length of Brook Lane, which leads to Plantation Gate, will impact on road safety. Brook Lane has a very narrow entrance from Newmarket Road; I Brook Lane is the walking route for children in Meadowcroft to the Primary School. There are no footpaths for most of its length. Parked cars at the side of Brook Lane narrow the road. Increasing the traffic flow to give the new development access into Plantation Gate will be hazardous for motorists and for pedestrians
Poor access to proposed doctor's surgery, proposed footpath to village past the cemetery will not be used as this is not a practical route for pushchairs bikes etc.
The CLT will be carrying out a survey on Plantation Gate after Phase 1 of the development to decide whether or not to close off Plantation Gate. However the Doctors surgery which will attract traffic is in Phase 2, the commercial units won't be built until Phase 3 with an increase in traffic again. How can a survey at the end of Phase 1 accurately assess the amount of vehicles that will use the Plantation Gate access route? Any decision to stop the access on Plantation gate once it has already been established would be hard to achieve.
Proposed new access onto Newmarket Road will have poor visibility towards the village.
This is a busy road and close to the Sennitt Way junction. Increase in traffic movements into and out of the site, including slow moving farm vehicles will impact greatly on traffic movement along Newmarket Road.
A footway/cycle link indicated on the plan cross land adjacent to Sennitt Way. There is no right of way for this.
Design Issues
Doctor's surgery, playgroup and industrial units will be on the edge of the village and will be less convenient than current location in the village centre. New development will be on edge of the village and driving will be involved to get to the village centre

There is already a doctor's surgery in the heart of the village on a site which has ample space for expansion. It is adjacent to the Post Office and easy to access. Why do we need another in fields far away?
This is too large for the village
Drainage
Inadequate drainage details for surface water and foul sewage
The public surface water drainage system serving Stretham is dilapidated and very sensitive to ill-considered modification and ECDC should be fully alert to its responsibilities. The Water pump station at end of Brook Lane cannot cope currently.
The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) fails on a number of counts.
Detrimental Impacts
Will have a negative impact on the existing village centre and its activities. The site is a quiet area of village well used by pedestrians. Proposal will destroy natural habitat in the area and adjacent lake. New Development will take away the charm of the village and change character. Site provides pleasant open views down from the village cemetery.
Dinosaur remains found in close proximity to the site – archaeological watching brief needs to be ensured as archaeological remains may be found.
Why are we losing very precious farmland. Surely these dwellings could be comfortably accommodated on a smaller site. How can 35 market homes be justified outside the village envelope? Who will fund all the changes needed in infrastructure and changes to the village?
The plans envisage land for the expansion of the parish cemetery. This has already been recently extended at considerable parish expense to meet the anticipated needs of the village. Will the land receive any potential development value as a result of the proposals?
There is to be a new village green. This will be an asset controlled by the Trust. Who would be responsible for its maintenance? The proposals show that the site would benefit by views of a lake. This is a very deep steep-sided pit adjacent to the sewage works. – Who would be responsible for its safety once it is brought into prominence?
Affordable housing
The need for additional affordable housing has not been properly established. Recently our Parish Council, District and County Councillors have vigorously opposed the construction of only eight affordable houses in the village.
Need to ensure that houses do go to local people.
It is not clear under what constitution the control and letting of the affordable housing will be vested. It will be important that this aspect remains transparent as any other Housing Association.
General comments
Both Stretham Parish Council and East Cambs Council have interests in this application and there is a conflict of interest for both of these parties to be involved. Stretham Parish Council having put the application in and East Cambs giving funds towards the cost of the development.
The draft local plan states that such development proposals would need to have demonstrated support in the local community and with evidence of support of the local community. The proposal does not. Membership of the Trust was restricted to people who agreed with its aims and paid a subscription. Opponents could not comment. The Trust claims…"the majority (75%) was in favour of the creation of a Community Land Trust for the village….there was no opposition". However a total of 12 people responded to the question. There are more than 1,700 residents in Stretham alone. There has been minimal "public consultation". A display at a church bazaar and in the sport pavilion and parish hall have been poorly attended or restricted to subscribers. If there has been a public meeting organised by the Parish Council I have not noticed it. There has been nothing on the Parish Council website until recently. Yet the proposal carries the name of Stretham Parish Council. Have they funded the scheme? If so are they entitled to comment on their own submission? The prime object is to provide accommodation for local people. Stretham Charity Trustees have or centuries provided accommodation for village residents. They have not been consulted. The development would be controlled by a Trust composed of people half of whom would live in Wilburton. This would be separate from the Parish and District Councils.

They would have responsibility for a large area of land in Stretham for perpetuity. It would be an ongoing commitment by local people. Yet there has not been a parish council election in Stretham or over a decade with members being returned unopposed or co-opted through lack of number. There are numerous other practical administrative problems that will need to be addressed before any approval was given even if it has support. This one does not.
The plans envisage land for the expansion of the parish cemetery. This has already been recently extended at considerable parish expense to meet the anticipated needs of the village. Will the land receive any potential development value as a result of the proposals?
There is to be a new village green. This will be an asset controlled by the Trust. Who would be responsible for its maintenance? The proposals show that the site would benefit by views of a lake. This is a very deep steep-sided pit adjacent to the sewage works. – Who would be responsible for its safety once it is brought into prominence?
It is interesting to note that all the comments in favour of the scheme come from residents who do not live in Stretham.
What is to prevent further extension of the village eastward and the impact on the edge of the village? There is no defined boundary to the east of the site. Phasing indicates further expansion than proposed at present. The plans show a "future connection" to the foul sewers at the south of the proposal boundary. It seems that the undefined and adjacent areas may be required to reduce the cost ratio of the affordable houses. The plans show 2 properties north of Plantation Gate. This was not part of the original concept shown in public consultations and looks like an insidious toe in the door for further development
6.12 Neighbour Support - Support has been received from 18 Top Street,3 School Lane Wilburton, 4 Cranwells Way LittleThetford, 19, 71 High Street Wilburton
Stretham and Wilburton Community Land trust is a not-for-profit Trust run by local volunteers from the two villages who want to make more affordable homes available for occupation by local people and provide space for employment uses, as well as leisure. Evidence of the provenance of the Trust and constitution has been supplied as part of the planning application documentation. Officers are satisfied that the scheme was initiated by the SWCLT and that it is a legitimate local community group. (ii) It can be seen from section 6 above that the LPA has received a number of objection to the scheme from local residents.
Evidence of the public consultation process that was carried out by an independent body has been submitted with the application. It shows that a number of events were held at different locations in the village with different village organisations and included a public exhibition in the Parish Rooms. The process of how the views and comments of the consultation process were incorporated into the scheme is well documented. Whilst the attendance at the events by members of the public is low, this is not unusual in the response to a public consultation exercise. Officers are satisfied that there is evidence of meaningful public engagement. Members should consider whether the scheme has general community support or not.
6. It can be demonstrated that the scheme will be well managed and financially viable over the long-term and that any benefits provided by the scheme can be retained by the local community in perpetuity
Non housing elements of the scheme
9.7 These elements are an extension to the cemetery. Doctor's surgery and 4 business premises.
9.8 The change of use to a cemetery extension is not included within the application but it is noted that the intention of the CLT is not to develop this land but to make it available for a future cemetery extension. Whether this land is suitable or not is a debate to be had in the future.
9.9 With regard to the doctors surgery there is no specific policy which applies to new community facilities in the Core Strategy. However Policy COM4 is a new policy in the DLP and expresses the view that new community facilities should be located within settlement boundaries wherever possible. In exceptional circumstances facilities may be permitted in the countryside where there is a lack of suitable and available land within settlements or where a rural location is required. Policy COM4 outlines that proposals or all new or improved community facilities should:
• Be well located and accessible to its catchment population (including by foot and cycle). Not have a significant adverse impact (itself or cumulatively) in terms of the scale or nature of traffic generated

• Not have a significant adverse impact on the character of the locality, or the amenity of nearby properties
• Demonstrate that opportunities to maximise shared use have been explored and
• Be designed to facilitate future adaptation for alternative community uses or shared use.
9.10 Taking each of the criterion in turn the doctor's surgery will not be developed until Phase 2 which is likely to be 2016 at the earliest.
9.11 The doctor's practice is shared with Haddenham village and a surgery is held for Stretham residents in Chapel Street on a first come first served basis. The proposed new surgery provides parking and pedestrian/cycle access. In terms of being well located and accessible obviously, once built, the surgery will be well located and accessible for residents in the new development and Plantation Gate. However Officers have concerns regarding moving the surgery out of the centre of the village location because its central location also generates linked trips to other village facilities, e.g. the shop and Post Office. No information has been forthcoming about alternative sites that have been explored within the village centre for providing a larger surgery. There will be increased traffic generated by people visiting the doctor's surgery over and above residential traffic. A positive factor to put in the balance is that the new surgery will be larger in size and will enable the provision of improved services to residents (e.g. midwife and nurse services). The surgery would be located away from other dwellings adjacent to the work units. On balance Officers consider the proposal complies with the second criterion.
9.12 With regards to the third and fourth criterion, it is considered that it would not be appropriate to share the facilities of a doctor's surgery. If at some stage in the future the doctor needed larger premises then Officers are satisfied that there is an opportunity in the adjacent work units for expansion. If the premises became vacant and the doctor's surgery moved, Officers are confident that the CLT with their local knowledge would be able to find a suitable alternative use for their premises that benefited the community.
9.13 The new business premises – 4 x 100m2 should be determined against Core Strategy policy EC6 and policy EMP3 in the DLP. The main thrust of both policies is the same, together with the criterion against which the proposals will be judged. The new units will be delivered in Phase 3 of the development i.e. 2017 at the earliest.
9.14 The employment uses are proposed to the north of the site where tracks 1 and 2 meet the extension to Plantation Gate. In view of the location of the work units in relation to residential properties, it is considered that the use of the units should be limited to B1 uses which are those uses which are appropriate in a residential area. Should there be a need for the small units to be used for any other use classes then a planning application will be needed and the alternative use can be considered on its individual merits. In order to keep the units small scale it is also considered that the extension/enlargement of the units should also be controlled by condition.
9.15 Officers consider that providing 4 employment premises and the Office space above the cart lodge style garage block, is supported by policy. The size, number and location of the units provides variety of accommodation and the opportunity for small businesses and start up units to remain within the village of Stretham.
Conclusions on policy and principle of development
9.16 The proposal includes a mix of market housing, affordable housing and business units.
This type of development is not an identified exception to the strict control of development in the countryside and would not therefore be in accordance with the policies in the adopted plan – Core Strategy 2009. However the Local Plan is well down the process of adoption. In view of the lack of objection to the proposed Policy
GROWTH 6 and GROWTH 2 Officers have given it considerable weight in the determination of this application. Officers are of the view that subject to appropriate conditions and S106 agreement regarding affordable housing and community uses, the proposal complies with the DLP and is acceptable in principle subject to the material considerations below.
Site specific material considerations
9.17 Design - the proposal provides for a mix and range of dwelling sizes, and styles based on the range of house types found in the village. Rear gardens, plot ratios meet the guidance outlined in the supplementary Design Guide. The street scene will be varied with gaps with a mixture of styles and

roof heights. The proposed materials will be based on buff brickwork, soft lime based mortars, lime render, timber boarding and a mix of natural clay roof finishes.
Rear gardens are spacious with dwellings set within public open space to the rear and front. Officers consider that that the design and layout has been well considered and reflects the principles of design and street hierarchy of the existing village.
Most of the affordable houses and market houses have the adopted standard of a maximum of 2 spaces. There are some dwellings which do not have allotted off-street parking. For a development of this size of 50 dwellings a maximum of 100 residential car parking spaces should be provided. 103 parking spaces are provided for residential use within the scheme. For the Doctors surgery with one consulting room up to 5 car parking spaces should be provided and for the works units of 4 x 100sqm a total of 14 car parking spaces should be provided within the scheme. 34 parking spaces are provided within the scheme for public parking which are to the north of the site and adjacent to the works units and doctors surgery.
The applicant suggests that out of normal working hours the public areas of parking can be used by visitors and residents.
In addition there is scope within the layout of the development to provide further areas of public parking which could work much the same as the triangular war memorial area in the village
9.24 Highway Safety –Following a further meeting with local residents in Plantation Gate raising concerns about their properties and the new access, amendments to the surface have been incorporated to improve the demarcation between the access and properties in Plantation Gate have been received. Comments from the Local Highway Authority indicate that submitted information regarding the Junction with A1123, travel plan, U-turn at the northern end of Street 1, and parking for the business units and Surgery are acceptable.
However there are a number of issues that are still outstanding. These include the extension to Plantation Gate, farm vehicles through the new development, constraint regarding highway drainage and adoption, the layout of Street 2 and the suitability of Street 1 for adoption.
The view of the Local Highway is that “the proposed Phase 1 access arrangements are likely to establish a routing behaviour for drivers that may be difficult to alter retaining an environment, even with planned works that is unpleasant or intimidating. This view is substantiated by the majority of objections received from villagers. Linkage to the village is a key element in the integration of the development and sustainability of the proposal. The works proposed do not improve the length of Plantation Gate enough to provide a carriageway of sufficient width, nor provide a suitable segregated footway to address the Highway Authority concerns, falling short of current requirements of the Highway Authority for adoptable highways. Street 2 is for most of its width, too narrow to satisfy the Highway Authority. Tracks 1 and 2 are not a suitable standard or the Highway Authority to adopt.
The technical requirements needed to meet the standards of the LHA in order to become adopted as a public highway is a primary determining factor in the layout of any development. The proposal is for a hierarchy of roads and tracks which reflect the street pattern found in the village. This approach has enabled the proposed clustering of buildings and the rural character of the layout, mainly centred on the triangular village green.
If streets are not adopted by the Local Highway Authority (and a condition cannot be imposed requiring this) then an alternative means of agreements to enable maintenance and upkeep will have to be found. Members should consider whether this is acceptable in principle. Officers consider that in the light of objections received from residents in the village regarding Plantation Gate, further work needs to be done regarding the access to Plantation Gate.
Recommendation
9.26 That the application is APPROVED in principle subject to the following matters being addressed and reported back to the Planning Committee for final agreement:
• Further work to be carried out on access to the site for all phases of the development and means of ensuring safe highways, maintained in perpetuity by a recognised management body.
• Further archaeological survey work being carried out on the site Subject to satisfactory Heads of Terms and S106 agreement to ensure:
• delivery of affordable housing elements and community facilities and,
• trigger points for phasing of the development and

• Tenure and affordable housing matters as outlined in the Housing officers report
And subject to Conditions delegated to the Principal Development Management Officer
Proposed reconstruction to Adoptable Highway Standard of the Extension to Plantation Gate
The proposed works do not improve the length of Plantation Gate enough to provide a carriageway of sufficient width, nor provide a suitable segregated footway to address the Highway Authority's concerns, falling short of current requirements of the Highway Authority for adoptable highways. Access to Manor Farm and any other farmland through the development. Whilst it is demonstrated that farm vehicles could make the manoeuvre to access the wider network through Street 1, they would occupy the entire width of the street. Insufficient opportunities are provided to allow cars to pull in to allow passage.
Adoptable Road Layout

2014 07 14 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes
040714. Reports from County and District Councillors.
A report from Councillor Hunt was received as follows:
CLT Stretham/Wilburton application was put before the planning committee 2nd July and passed in principle
He totally supports CLT but not convinced of the value of speculative companies who want to build on outskirts of villages such as Wilburton, Haddenham and Witchford, but provide very little contribution to the village (whilst using their facilities, schools, doctors surgeries etc.)

2014 07 19 p8
… crews extinguished a blaze in the roof of a bungalow in Green End, Stretham …

2014 07 29 p10
… farm in Cambridge Road Stretham. The plan which has been lodged with ECDC …

2014 07 30 p12
… for Stretham are opposed by protestors who say wind farms destroy peace and tranquillity but we do …

2014 08 01 p5
… a trip to Hannams Wake near Stretham to find out about wakeboarding …

2014 08 05 PC
The Chairman opened the meeting with the sad news that Councillor Edward Langford sadly passed away on 1st August 2014. Councillor Langford was a Councillor for nearly 45 years and made an exceptional contribution to the Council. A one minute silence was held.
One member of the public was present, Mr Andrew Pearson representing the newly formed group to oppose the Stretham Wind Farm. Mr Pearson explained that two meetings have so far taken place and County Councillor Bill Hunt attended the first meeting. Two representatives of the Stop Berry Fen Wind Farm Group also attended which was very helpful. The group requested assistance from the Parish Council in the form of: - to offer the group the use of the Parish Rooms or Pavilion as a meeting place as they have not yet been able to fund raise - to cover the cost of printing a flyer to be distributed by the group around the entire village
To consider planning applications. - 14/00769/FUL – Red Hill Farm, Stretham, Erection of 2 x wind turbines. Following on from the discussion within the Public Participation section of the meeting, the Council took the unanimous decision to oppose the application. It was agreed that the Clerk would meet with Councillor Prevett to put together the objection letter.
14/00799/VAR – Lazy Otter Meadows, Removal of condition. The Council unanimously agreed to object to this application for the following reasons:The original planning approval is for short holiday lets not for permanent residential usage. This restriction was made for good reason and is not unreasonable or unnecessary. Areas 1 and 2 are meant solely for holiday lets and are well outside the development envelope within Stretham. The Lazy Otter area is meant for tourism and

there is no infrastructure in the immediate area for more residential properties putting more strain on the amenities in the centre of the village including the doctor's surgery and school.

To make a decision on land valuations. For the purpose of holding an accurate asset register, the internal auditor had recommended that the land the Parish Council own be valued. The Clerk had instructed Cheffins to complete this task however the estimate for this work is £750 to value 4 pieces of land. The fee was felt to be high and a decision was made for the Clerk to provide Councillor Petherick will all the information on the land and he will seek the necessary information.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. The planning application for Manor Farm was approved with some conditions by the Planning Committee on 2nd July 2014. A transport assessment is still to be completed. The Council were very pleased to hear this news and see the progress the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust is making

A letter has been received from Ashton KCJ on Veal Land Tenancy. It was agreed to continue to issue a Notice to Quit and to also offer a new 5 year Farm Business Tenancy at rental of £100 per acre. This was proposed by Councillor Prevett and seconded by Councillor Taylor.

An email from Councillor Bill Hunt was received to inform the Council that the land the Ely Road Play Area is built on will be gifted to the Parish Council. The Council now await written confirmation of the offer.

An email of complaint was received from Mrs Blickem regarding noise pollution and inappropriate behavior at recent private bookings at the Parish Rooms. Mrs Blickem lives across the road from the Parish Rooms and states that the disturbance is affecting her family's lives. It was agreed that Councillor Parish and the Clerk would review the Hire Conditions with a view to tightening them around noise for example by closing doors and windows after 22.00. Signs will also be erected to respect people living in the area. It was not felt appropriate to ask the Caretaker to visit each private booking to check all is running smoothly, it is inevitable that some disturbance will occur living close to venues for public hire. Clerk to respond

Two emails requesting the removal of the grass verge outside 16 and 16A Reads Street were received. The Council is not in favour of removal of the grass verges in Reads Street as it is felt they are part of the character of the road.

Amenities Working Party – The Clerk reported the breakdown of costs involved with the damage caused to the Parish Rooms by the Coupland booking. It was agreed to charge for the damaged table and the repair to the toilet door totalling £96.00. The additional hours incurred by the Caretaker for cleaning and the Clerks time in dealing with the matter will not be charged. A cheque in the sum of £104.00 will be returned to Mr Coupland.

Concerns were raised by Councillor Roberts and Councillor Parish regarding the closeness of the graves in the new section at the cemetery and also one grave that is somewhat out of line. Councillor Parish and the Clerk will meet at the cemetery to look at this problem and also look at what other areas need attention.

2014 07 14 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes
040714. Reports from County and District Councillors.
A report from Councillor Hunt was received as follows:
CLT Stretham/Wilburton application was put before the planning committee 2nd July and passed in principle. He totally supports CLT but not convinced of the value of speculative companies who want to build on outskirts of villages such as Wilburton, Haddenham and Witchford, but provide very little contribution to the village (whilst using their facilities, schools, doctors surgeries etc.)

2014 08 13 p4

Plans to erect two wind turbines at Stretham have been … [turned down]

2014 09 02 PC
The Clerk confirmed all actions were completed from the last meeting. A response regarding the possibility of a puffin crossing replacing the current zebra crossing on Wilburton Road (A1123) has been received. The cost to do this would be in the region of £80,000 and Highways would only commit £10,000. The Road Safety Team highlighted in the response that there had been no major accidents close to or on the crossing and would not support the request to change. The Council felt very disappointed at this response. The Council is in no position to put forward £70,000 and was saddened that there has to be an accident before action is taken. One alternative put forward was to purchase zebrites at a cost of £4,000, the Clerk was asked to investigate.

Following on from the sad passing of Edward Langford, it was necessary to appoint a new Vice Chairperson of the Parish Council. Councillor Paddock proposed Councillor Parish and this was seconded by Councillor Sandland. Councillor Speed made a counter proposal for Councillor Petherick to fill the role and this was seconded by Councillor Prevett. Both proposed Councillor left the room whilst a vote took place. The results of the vote appointed Councillor Kier Petherick to the role of Vice Chairperson.
14/00839/ESF, Construction of a solar farm, Stowbridge Farm, Green End, Stretham
This application is for a new solar farm. After careful consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Parish to raise no objections to this application. This was seconded by Councillor Murfitt and all Councillors voted in favour apart from Councillor Prevett

14/00681/FUL, Change of use to land for up to 10 caravans, Saunders Piece, Ely Road, Little Thetford. Many councillors felt there are already enough caravan parks in the area and also have concerns regarding the settlement of caravans behind the toilet block at this site that appear to be permanent. It was proposed by Councillor Parish to object to this application on those grounds and this was seconded by Councillor Prevett. All Councillors were in favour apart from Councillor Paddock.

An email from Mr Maggs has been received informing the Council that his fence was stolen from the rear of his property on High Street. The Council are very sorry to hear that Mr Maggs' fence was stolen. Aside from maintaining the footpath that runs behind Mr Maggs' property and the church, the Council has no involvement with the owner of the field. The Council understands that a Mr Godfrey Parish owns the field however does not have his contact details.

An email from Ian Stewart has been received regarding the drainage of water at the bottom of High Street and Chapel Street. The recent heavy rain caused some minor flooding. Councillor Petherick agreed to speak to Jeremy Sadler to help resolve the problems.

Councillor Parish and the Clerk have met at the cemetery and agreed actions. A complaint has been made by Mrs Edwards about some damage to her husband's grave. An ornament has been damaged and the grave digger went over Mr Edwards's grave to dig the Langford grave. Ely Funeral Service has been informed and Truelink has been informed about the damaged ornament. The Council are sorry to see that distress has been caused however cannot replace the ornament as there is no complete proof as to who damaged it.

2014 09 01 p9
Peoples health. Dr Pamela Kenny a GP at Haddenham and Stretham from 1986 until 2006 and currently

2014 09 13 p19
The 14th-century cross at Stretham is in danger of collapsing

2014 09 25

Ellee Seymour writes ‘Shopgirls’ book [cutt]

2014 10 PC
Councillors Roberts and Petherick declared an interested in item 12 on the Agenda, specifically planning application14/00013/FUM in their capacity as trustees of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust.

Veal tenancy – a full update was provided to the Council. The Notice to Quit has been issued and Mrs Veal has been on the telephone to the Clerk and has sent a letter confirming she wishes to put forward an offer of £90 per acre however the Notice to Quit be withdrawn. After careful consideration, the Council resolved to proceed with the Notice to Quit as the current lease has been breached.

A complaint has been received against Joanne Paddock (who has since resigned from the Council) regarding her conduct. The complaint was explained to the Council. Councillor Roberts and the Clerk met with Mrs Paddock to discuss the complaint and Mrs Paddock subsequently made an apology. The Clerk has responded to the complainant.

The Clerk made a request to purchase Microsoft Publisher for approximately £110 and this was approved. The Clerk also requested to attend Election Day training in readiness for May 2015 at a cost of £104 and this was approved. This expenditure was proposed by Councillor Murfitt and seconded by Councillor Prevett, all in agreement.

The Clerk explained that the number of teams Stretham Sporting currently has in existence is now 5 teams. Stretham Sporting currently pay £2160. Other football clubs are charged at £300 per annum/per team to use the SSRC facility as a whole. After lengthy discussion, it was resolved that the rent that Stretham Sporting pay should be reduce to £1500 per annum to accurately reflect the number of teams and ensure fairness across the users. The Clerk was asked to point out the effect this reduction will have on the village with the Council meeting increased costs in maintaining and keeping open SSRC.

To discuss partnership with Stretham Youth Centre. Councillor Parish explained that Stretham Youth Centre is going forward to apply for £5,000 for funding for a photography project via Children’s Links. The aim of the project is to create an information pack for new people moving to the village. Stretham Youth Centre would like to partner with Stretham Parish Council for this project and there will be no initial outlay. It was agreed to partner Stretham Youth Centre for this project and the Clerk will meet with them to agree the involvement.

- 14/01042/FUL, Bridge House, Green End. After careful consideration, it was agreed to object to this application for the following reasons: - Flood risk - Outside of development envelope - Increased traffic on Green End single track. Proposed by Councillor Parish, seconded by Councillor Prevett, all in agreement.

Planning decisions were reviewed. The Council were disappointed with the decision relating to Lazy Otter Meadows.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillors Roberts and Petherick provided a full update to the Council. The ECDC Planning Committee will meet on 17th October and it is hoped that full consent will be given. The Archaeological dig has been completed and is satisfactory. It is hoped that work will start on the site early in 2015

A letter from Neville Bussingham was read out about the damage caused to Brook Lane by farm machinery. These concerns will be passed onto SWCLT and Highways.

An email from Amanda Coleman was read out regarding an injury sustained in Reads Street on a grass verge that is worn away. The Council was very sorry to hear of the accident. The verge is not owned or maintained by the Council and the matter will be sent onto Pam Joyce in the Highways Department. The Parish Council does not wish to see the grass verges removed and the Clerk was asked to reiterate this point to Pam Joyce.

2014 10 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes
The following report was given by Councillor Hunt 3. The Community Land Trust (Stretham and Wilburton) is about to put in second planning application.

2014 11 04 PC
Councillors Roberts and Petherick declared an interested in item 12 on the Agenda, in their capacity as trustees of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust.

To discuss Stretham Sporting rent and current issues
Following on from the Council notifying Stretham Sporting that their rent was to be reduced from £2160 to £1500 per annum to reflect the current number of teams, further correspondence was received indicating Stretham Sporting require a further reduction as the All Weather Pitch is not in a fit state. The Council became aware that the cost of using other fa-cilities in nearby villages is being passed onto the parents as an additional cost, thus cover-ing this cost. The Council has a responsibility for balancing out the money spent on SSRC over the whole community and cannot commit to further rent reductions when financial losses are generally made. The Council very much values the work done by Stretham Sporting with the youth of Stretham and surrounding villages and would not want to see Stretham Sporting re-locate. The Clerk informed the Council that the User Agreement had still not been returned and the rent not paid. It was proposed by Councillor Parish to write to Stretham Sporting explaining why the rent could not be reduced further and asking for the rent to be paid and the User Agreement returned by 30th November. This was seconded by Councillor Petherick and all Councillors were in agreement. The Clerk was asked to investigate the costs of a multi-user surface being installed as well as tarmacking the surface. This will then be placed back on the Agenda when the options and prices are available.
To consider an idea to raise funds to maintain SSRC
Councillor Taylor put forward an idea to turn the main room of the Pavilion into Tea Rooms and has two people interested in pursuing this idea. The idea was talked through. The Council agreed they like the idea but would not want direct involvement (the room would be rented out). It was agreed to put the information into the Newsletter to see if there is any in-terest in the development of a Community Café or similar.

Councillors Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The ECDC Planning Committee gave full planning consent in October. The Council were very pleased to hear this news. Laragh Homes are not [SIC] putting out contracts for construction ready for Phase 1 to start early next year.

An email has been received from Olivia Petherick on behalf of St James Church asking if the Parish Council would like to join the church for their Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that as the Parish Council has already communicated their arrangements in the October newsletter, these plans will be upheld. The Council would like to liaise with the Church in September next year so plans can be made and communicated well in advance of the event. The Church would also like to use the Parish Rooms on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month for Sunday Club as they have outgrown the small glass room at the back of the church. The church is currently struggling for funds and would not be able to meet the current rental fees. All Councillors agreed they value the work the church does within the community and for children. It was proposed by Councillor Speed to offer the church free use of the Parish Rooms however they must be cleaned afterwards so no money is spent on the Caretaker cleaning up. The Council would also ask for free use of the small glass room for meetings if necessary. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Taylor and all were in agreement.

An email from Jenny Kidd has been received about an accident her son Robert had at the Recreation ground on some concreate around a hole. Councillor Murfitt agreed to investigate this.

Eleanor's Field Working Party – Councillor Parish offered to take the development of Eleanor's Field forward and all those in attendance agreed this is a good idea. A meeting will be arranged and this will be advertised in the Newsletter. It was agreed that it would be preferable to have Mr Andrew Fountain involved as he is very knowledgeable in this area. Councillor Roberts will remove the mid-section fence as soon as the Clerk obtains the keys to the padlocks back from Truelink. Councillor Parish will put together a Terms of Reference to establish an Eleanor's Field Sub-Committee for agreement at the next full Council meeting.

2014 12 PC
To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillors Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The Section 106 Agreement should be signed very soon. Once this is signed, the full planning consent will be signed off. There will be more consultation with the village very soon and there has already been lots of interest in the CLT properties.

Veal tenancy – the deadline to reply to the Notice to Quit has now expired and the Notice has not been contested. The Clerk was asked to inform Ashton KCJ to acknowledge that the Notice was not contested and the arrangements thereafter. The Council unanimously agreed to approach Mrs Betty Veal with an offer of a New Farm Business Tenancy, 5 years at £90 an acre. The Chairman and Clerk will arrange a meeting with Mrs Veal in due course.

A letter from the owner of Beach Babies Day Nursery was received thanking the Council for their support with the planning application in 2013. The nursery is now open and the Councillors were invited to visit to take a look around.

2014 12 29
Appley ever after …cider-making at Stretham where Charles Roberts brews Pickled Pig Cider. 2014 12 29 CN

-o-o-2015-o-o-

2015 02 03 PC
Mr Tim Bent and Mr Clive Judd spoke to the Council about the Dimmocks Cote Quarry Planning Application based between Stretham and Wicken. The applicant is applying to extend the quarry and to import inert landfill into the quarry. This has caused great concern in Wicken. The traffic travelling through Stretham would increase considerably. There would be on average an additional 36,000 lorry movements through the village each year. The Council thanked Mr Bent and Mr Judd for attending the meeting and making the Council aware of the local concerns.

Peta Crawshaw from Balfour Beatty attended the meeting and explained the situation in full to the Councillors in relation to the new street lighting being erected. All street lighting in Cambridgeshire is being replaced due to poor state however 10% (approximately 6000) street lights will not be replaced to cut costs. The new lights will be dimmed between 10pm and 6am. The Council expressed their concerns that no consultation with the Parish has taken place before the work started. Distribution of information directly to all properties in Stretham was patchy. Residents' concerns were passed on and particular concerns around a street light being permanently removed at the junction of Green End and King Cob were expressed. Agenda point 14 was covered in this section of the meeting.

Councillor Roberts explained that the Councils main concern is the heritage lighting in the centre of Stretham on High Street and Chapel Street. These columns were installed in 1998 at great cost in this area of the Conservation Area and are scheduled to be ripped up. Ms Crawshaw explained that these cast iron columns are not classed as historic and that she requires an exact installation date of

the seven heritage columns before any decision can be made. Councillor Roberts is already seeking this information from ECDC and communication will continue with Balfour Beatty after the meeting. Councillor Roberts asked for common sense to prevail and for proper consultation to happen.

The Transfer documents have been received from ECDC for signature to transfer the ownership of the Ely Road play area land to Stretham Parish Council. The Chairman and Clerk signed the two copies of the Transfer documents and this was witness by Councillor Joanne Taylor.

To consider approval of two Ely Road Play Area tenders from Wickstead and Hags SMP. Councillor Parish explained that five tenders were received and following a strict scoring process, two of the tenders (Hags SMP and Wickstead) have been taken to the next stage. It was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Taylor to approve the two designs and the Council unanimously agreed. The children of the village will now vote on their favourite design. The funding application will be submitted to WREN middle of March and the Council will learn if it has been successful at the end of July. If successful, it is likely work will start at the beginning of September. It was agreed to seek permission to remove two more trees as the coverage the trees provide causes the surface to become slippery.

To consider proposal put forward by Mr James Hool in relation to other uses for the Pavilion. The Council is always looking at ways to achieve better income at the Pavilion. Mr James Hool put forward a proposal to adapt the main room at the Pavilion into Stretham Village Café and this was shared with the Council. It was felt that this idea would need some considerable investment to adapt the building and this is not something that the Council would be able to cover. The Council would not want direct involvement with any adaptions and the building would be offered on a commercial basis. A letter has also been received from Mr and Mrs Rippingale of Wilburton regarding the possibility of setting up a children's day nursery in the Pavilion. The Council agreed to go back to both parties and request a full proposal including costings for modifications to the building.

E/3008/14/CM - Dimmocks Cote Quarry, Stretham Road, Wicken - Extension to Quarry for extraction of limestone, provision of new storage building, importation of inert fill, recycling of inert material and revised restoration. The Council agreed to oppose the application for the following reasons: The A1123 is already a very busy road that travels directly through Stretham and Wicken. This is totally unacceptable for this to happen right through the heart of these villages. Stretham Parish Council has already raised many safety concerns to Highways regarding vehicles, especially HGV's and tractors, travelling through Stretham at speed and totally missing or ignoring the pedestrian crossing. Stretham Parish Council has just installed Zebrite Belisha Beacons at the crossing to increase visibility. The crossing links the Recreation Ground where many children play with the rest of the village. The pavements are also very narrow on one particular corner and many HGV's mount the pavement. The landfill requirements of Cambridgeshire are already covered through to 2026, the Council questions why this site is required. The area in question is already a Site of Scientific Interest and a Nature Reserve. The Council cannot understand why an inert landfill would be based right next door. There are concerns of water pollution and how this would be monitored. There is no information on the types of inert waste that would be brought into the site

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillors Roberts provided a full update to the Council. All is progressing well with the Manor Farm project and the footings will go in around June 2015.

To receive an update on progress of the Investing in Future Communities Project. Councillor Parish informed the meeting that the children involved in this project have named it the ITS Project. The children have completed a list of likes and dislikes about the village. There are many likes and the

dislikes are mainly around dog mess and graffiti. The children have started to interview local people and the project is progressing well. A Toy Swop has been organised for 28th February at the Youth Centre.

An email from Stretham Sporting has been received asking for clarification from the Council as to whether a second All Weather Pitch would be supported. The Council unanimously agreed that this idea is just not workable.

Amenities Working Party – the trees have been felled at the cemetery. A grave stone has been erected that is too big and breaches the Cemetery Rules. Council approval was given at 30 inches width however it measures 36 inches. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Stone masons explaining the problem and asking for rectification.

Eleanor's Field Working Party – still waiting for the ground to dry out before the mid-section can be removed.

2015 03 03 PC
Street Lights – the 7 Heritage Lights in the High Street will be saved at an annual cost to the Council of £490. A good number of emails and phone calls have been received from concerned residents which have been passed onto Balfour Beatty. Clerk asked to investigate what is covered in the annual fee of £490.

Ely Road Play Area Land - The sealed Transfer document has been received from ECDC so the land now belongs to Stretham Parish Council. All that is left to do is to apply for the transfer to be registered with the Land Registry, Miriam Brown could assist with this. A letter of thanks for the gift has been sent. The Funding Application will be submitted to WREN by 18th March.
Dimmock's Cote Quarry – letter of objection sent no further news.

Redhill Wind Farm - Planning at ECDC called to say the Environmental Statement is still not sufficient and has been returned to the applicant. They have asked the applicant for a vague timescale on their response and Planning will pass this on if they hear anything.

The footpath between Fieldside and Green End has been repaired. The new trees will be planted at the Recreation Ground by Truelink Ltd very soon. All correspondence responded to.

Mr Chantler and Mrs Rippingale-Chantler attended the meeting to explain they would be interested in setting up a Day Nursery at the Pavilion. For many years, the Parish Council has been financially supporting Stretham Sports and Recreation Centre (SSRC) and has been looking at ways to increase income. This idea is in the very early stages however further information was requested to see if this is feasible. The Pavilion would still be able to be used by the village football teams. The Council requested a Business Plan and a meeting will be arranged prior to the next full Council meeting.

Mr Breedon and Mr Stuart attended the meeting to talk about the possibility of some Calisthenics equipment at the Recreation Ground. Further information was requested prior to this idea being taken forward. Consultation with the village would be required to get an indication of what residents would like to see at the Recreation Ground.

To discuss legal claim made against Stretham Parish Council. Councillors Parish, Bright and Taylor left the room whilst this Agenda item was discussed. The Clerk updated the Council with regards to a legal claim being made against the Council relating to an accident at the Parish Rooms on Sunday 8th February 2015 whilst under the Hire of Stretham Players. The Clerk has the matter in hand and will update the Council as the matter progresses.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillors Roberts provided a full update to the Council. Good progress is being made and is all running to plan. The Meadowcroft fencing will be worked on first along with the tree and shrub planting. Laragh Homes are organising a newsletter to be distributed in Stretham and Wilburton.

The Clerk placed a request to the Council to purchase a laptop to be used purely for Council business. The Clerk currently uses her own PC which is now old and slow. It was proposed by Councillor Parish to allow the Clerk to purchase a laptop up to the value of £500 and also Office 365 for an annual fee of up to £80. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Simpson and all Councillors were in agreement.

A letter has been received from W Kent Memorials regarding the Pearce Memorial being too large. They apologise for the internal mistake that has been made and ask for this sensitive matter to be overlooked on this occasion. The Council discussed this carefully and took the decision that although very sympathetic to this situation, this cannot be overlooked as it is opening up the Council to further breaches of the Cemetery Rules. Clerk to respond.

Ely Road Play Area Sub-Committee – The Hags SMP design has been chosen by the children of the village and the application to WREN will be submitted by 18th March.

Councillor Prevett asked if it is correct for Jubilee Gardens to be used as a dog training area. Councillor Parish explained that dogs are allowed in Jubilee Gardens and that as long as any dog mess is cleared up, it is OK.

Councillor Roberts raised the issue of double parking in Top Street. Clerk to put a stern warning in the Newsletter that any vehicles double parked will be reported to the Police.

2015 03 05 EM
Formation of Stretham Parish Council
Rachel Watts <stretham.clerk@gmail.com>
Thu, 5 Mar 2015, 09:40
I am currently preparing a Funding Application to be submitted to WREN for the Ely Road Play Area. One of the questions on the form is:When did your Organisation start?
Thus, I need to establish when Stretham Parish Council was started/formed. Do you know the answer to this with all your historic knowledge? I will approach ECDC if you are not sure.

2015 04 02
Red Lion: new chapter for Pages, take over as licencee [cutt] [scan]

2015 04 07 PC
The meeting was attended by a good number of Stretham residents come to talk about local issues. Richard Breedon and Doug Stuart attended the meeting to put forward their proposal for a Bar Park on the Recreation Ground. The Council were in support of taking this idea forward and Councillor Taylor agreed to work on this proposal.

Mr Richard Dickerson attended to talk about a safety concern around the lack of lighting at the Hay Fen Close junction. The Clerk has received a number of concerns regarding dark areas/unlit junctions and it was agreed to arrange a meeting with Balfour Beatty at the sites of concern to see what can be done.

Emma Grima from East Cambridgeshire District Council attended the meeting to explain to the Council what CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money can be spent on. The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. Stretham has received two payments so far in the sum of £729 and £1588 and the Council has

5 years to allocate it. The money can be spent on improvements to village halls and play equipment etc.

The Council carefully considered the views of a number of residents attending the meeting in relation to the planning application at Meadow Farm, Fieldside. There were considerable concerns about the loss of privacy if a first floor was added to the existing bungalow. Mr Hopkins felt sure there is a restriction on the bungalows in Fieldside stopping a first floor being erected.

The Council received a letter from Stretham Sporting Football Club regarding the state of the All Weather Pitch. The current carpet surface will be removed imminently so the surface underneath can be assessed. The Council is currently considering all the options with the Pavilion building and the All Weather Pitch. At this present time, there are no definite plans until professional advice has been sought. The Contract will need amending to reflect that the All Weather Pitch is not useable. The Clerk informed the meeting that Stretham Sporting has an outstanding invoice of £750. Stretham Sporting will be asked to pay this by the end of April or the keys should be returned. Clerk to respond.

To consider Day Nursery Proposal from Mrs Rippingale-Chantler. Councillors Roberts, Petherick and Parish and the Clerk have met with Mrs Rippingale-Chantler and her parents to discuss the Day Nursery proposal put forward to Mrs Rippingale-Chantler. The meeting was a very positive meeting openly discussing how this proposal could work and what issues could arise. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the Charity Commission in the first instance to obtain approval for this change in use although the Pavilion would still remain for use for sport. It was proposed by Councillor Parish and Seconded by Councillor Speed to meet 50% of the architect fees as a joint instruction with Mrs Rippengale-Chantler and all Councillors were in favour.

15/00201/FUL – Meadow Farm, Fieldside – Proposed first floor extension to existing bungalow and other alterations. After careful consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Simpson to raise objections to the Meadow Farm, Fieldside application for a proposed first floor extension to an existing bungalow. The objections include that it would not be in keeping with the surrounding properties and it would be intrusive to surrounding properties. All Councillors in favour to raise objections.

15/00300/FUL – Falcon Service Area, Cambridge Road – Temporary Change of use (3 years) to Animal Experience Centre and retention of temporary lean-to. No objections

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillors Roberts and Petherick provided a full update to the Council. A letter/newsletter is going out to all properties in Stretham and Wilburton with a full update including information on a potential site at Wilburton and also the additional Dudley/Sennitt land being including in the Manor Farm project.

To receive an update on progress of the Investing in Future Communities Project. Councillor Parish informed the meeting that the launch of the Village Welcome Pack went very well at the Youth Centre and will prove to be a valuable asset for the Parish Council to supply to new people moving to the Village. The children working on the project have made a YouTube film and have really enjoyed being involved.

Councillor Nuttall updated the meeting on the progress of the Stop Stretham Wind Farm Group. The current Environmental Statement supplied by the Applicant is inadequate and has been returned for improvement. A bat survey is required among other requests. The group also had a very positive meeting with the Planning Department at ECDC.

2015 05 05 PC
The Clerk currently has no scanning capabilities at home and it was proposed by Councillor Murfitt that the Council purchase a scanner to use to stop them Clerk travelling into Ely each time a

document requires scanning. All Councillors in agreement up to the cost £150, assistance can be provided with the selection by Councillor Nuttall.

An email from the Chairman of Stretham Sporting has been received regarding a public meeting being held on Wednesday 6th May regarding the future of the club in Stretham. The club are considering their options with the All Weather Pitch at Stretham being in an usable state. Councillor Taylor informed the meeting that she will be in attendance at the meeting in her capacity as a member of Stretham Football Club.

Councillor Roberts ran over the history of SSRC and how it has cost the Parish Council £16,000 over the last 3 years to keep it open and functioning. The rent was reduced in October from £2190 per year to £1500 to reflect the reduction in teams. The Council are still very committed to supporting the facility to remain open but cannot justify a further reduction in rent at this point in time. It was agreed that Stretham Sporting FC should be left to make the decision as a Club as to what the future holds. The rent invoice of £750.00 remains unpaid and it was proposed by Councillor Parish to ask for the keys to be returned. All Councillors in agreement.

The Clerk updated in the Councillors in relation to further correspondence received from Mrs Coleman of 16A Reads Street regarding the eroding grass verges outside her property and Mrs Compton's property at number 16. The Clerk has obtained a quote from Pam Joyce at the Highways Department to have the verges reinstated including the installation of kerbing. This has come in at £4500.00 and Highways are looking for a contribution towards this work from the Parish Council. There was some uncertainty if the cost of £4500 covered all the verges in Reads Street and the Clerk agreed to seek clarification. The Clerk was also asked to contact Mrs Coleman and Mrs Compton and explain that their vehicles will be pushed further into the highway and that no highway widening would be undertaken.

15/00390/LBC - The Old Rectory, 40 High Street – Repairs to Barn located within the curtilage of The Old Rectory. After careful consideration by the Council, it was proposed by Councillor Murfitt to raise no objections to this planning application. This was seconded by Councillor Parish, all in agreement.

14/01047/FUL – Morning Meadow, Grunty Fen – WITHDRAWN. The Clerk has requested further information on the withdrawal and the following information was received: The application has been withdrawn by the applicant following advice that his application was unlikely to be successful. The withdrawal does not therefore mean that planning permission would not be required. The applicant had made the application on the basis that the dwelling was for a rural worker. As a rural business is not operating from the site the applicant could not have met the policy requirements for such a proposal.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The AGM will be held on 14th May and all Councillors are invited to attend. The 27th July is the official date for work to commence at Manor Farm.

To receive an update on progress of the Investing in Future Communities Project. Councillor Parish informed the meeting that the project is now finished and should be removed as a rolling Agenda item. The cost of printing the Village Information brochure should be considered at the time when the Precept is set.

Ely Road Play Area Sub-Committee – Councillor Parish proposed the closure of the Ely Road Play Area due to safety concerns. This was agreed by all Councillors as the safety of the users is paramount.

Councillor Parish informed the meeting that Donna Bright is setting up an Over 60's Singing Group and would like to ask for the first meeting to be rent free. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor that the Council be supportive of this venture and all were in agreement.

2015 05 13 Wilburton Annual Parish Meeting
Other priorities we have include securing affordable housing for parishioners through supporting the work of the Community Land Trust, and I will ask the CLT Vice-Chair, Councillor Dodson, to say a few words on this.
Councillor Dodson confirmed that this was the 1st Community Land Trust and fully supported by Councillor Hunt. The policies and procedures were now in place – Stretham has a site, but it is the early stages for Wilburton.
In terms of deciding the future priorities for the Parish Council, it is important that we prioritise the needs and wants of all parishioners, not just our own perceptions of these. To that end, one of my colleagues has been responsible for the creation of a Community Led Plan, so we will know what parishioners want from us, and I will ask David Reynolds, who has led this, to say a few words on the subject.
Councillor Reynolds confirmed had received great feedback from phase 1 regarding surveys etc, good feedback from Acre and consultation with all relevant parties. Data currently being analysed for contribution to questionnaire.

2015 05 19 PC

2015 05 16
Portraits capture ordinary lives: Robert Crack paints portraits of thirty Stretham villagers. 2015 05 16 CN

2015 06 02 PC
Street Lights – Balfour Beatty have confirmed nothing will be done to assist in the areas causing concerns in the village. It was agreed the Clerk should write to Cambridgeshire County Council and Balfour Beatty, clearly identifying the two specific areas of safety concern, namely Green End/King Cob and Hay Fen/Reads Street.

A meeting with Liz Miller (Architect) took place at the Pavilion on 14th May and the Clerk is attempting to locate the original drawings to pass onto Ms Miller to save some time and money.

Representatives from Stretham Sporting FC attended the meeting to explain that the club are now at a crossroads with regards to where they will train next season. The All Weather Pitch is now in an unfit state to be played on due to the torn surface. The club has consulted with the parents of the players and there is a strong desire to remain playing in Stretham. Councillor Roberts explained that the Council is committed to keeping sporting teams in the Village. James Baggley explained he would be help to help secure funding to replace the surface and Neil Twitchett felt the cost would be between £7-10K. The Club has already managed to secure a grant of £500.

Doug Stuart and Richard Breedon attended the meeting to update the Council on the Bar Park proposal and to agree a way forward with this. Councillor Parish explained that a questionnaire has been put together to seek the opinions of everyone living in Stretham as to what they would like to see happen at the Recreation ground. The Planning Department should also be approached at ECDC to check if planning permission would be required. The Clerk will action this. The results of the questionnaire will be ready for discussion at the meeting of the Council in September.

Anna Gargan attended the meeting regarding leaning more about the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust for her university degree. Councillor Roberts offered advice to Miss Gargan.

To discuss ongoing issues Stretham Sporting Football Club and the All Weather Pitch. Following the discussions within the Public Participation section of the meeting, this topic was discussed in great detail as to how this problem can be resolved. Funding takes significant time to obtain and the pitch would not be resurfaced by the start of the season in September. It was proposed by Councillor Parish that Stretham Parish Council pay up to £10K for the pitch to be resurfaced and this was seconded by Councillor Murfitt. An amendment to this proposal was put forward by Councillor Taylor that if this money is committed by the Council, no rent reduction be made and Stretham Sporting should be asked to donate 10% of the total cost via a written undertaking. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Nuttall. The Council resolved by a unanimous vote in favour of this amendment. Stretham Sporting indicated they are very happy with what was agreed and will be able to donate 10%.

To discuss the eroding grass verges in Reads Street. Pam Joyce has confirmed she may be able to obtain 100% funding for the reinstatement of the verges and additional kerbing however has asked the Council if they would be willing to make a contribution. The Council agreed that the Clerk should negotiate the best deal possible with Highways up to a total of 50%.

To discuss and agree the Recreation ground consultation. Councillor Parish put forward a draft Recreation ground questionnaire for consideration by the Council. The purpose of the questionnaire is to establish what the community wants to see happen at the Recreation Ground. A letterbox would be required at the Parish Rooms for responses to be posted. The Councillors agreed to proceed with the questionnaire and 3 copies should be placed in the June Newsletter with further copies available from the Clerk or via the website.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The planning application for Phase 3 of the Manor Farm development has now been submitted to ECDC. SWCLT is now encouraging local people to apply for properties. Work on Phase 1 is still scheduled to start at the end of July.

Amenities Working Party – Two of the benches in bus shelters have been covered in graffiti. This news will be put in the Newsletter and T B Services will be asked to re-paint the benches.

Councillor Parish explained that the Over 60's Singing Group has been successfully formed by Mrs Donna Bright and passed on thanks for the Council from the free of charge first session.

2015 07 07 PC
Councillor Prevett excluded from the meeting due to Election Expense Form and Register of Disclosable Interests form not being returned to ECDC since the Parish Election on 7th May 2015

All Weather Pitch – As suspected the quotes to lay a new All Weather Pitch have come in well above £10K. It was agreed to go back to Stretham Sporting and explain what has happened. It is looking likely we will need to apply for funding.

Recreation Ground questionnaires have gone out and spare copies are available. Good number of responses received so far. The Planning Department at ECDC has confirmed that under the Parish Council's power to provide sports and recreational facilities, it is unlikely we would need to obtain planning permission for a bar park.

Fiona Mackay-Rae attended the meeting to speak about the application process to become a Stretham Charity Trustee. The questions raised were: Why apply to the Parish Clerk and not to the Clerk of the Charity Trust? Has the Parish Council taken over Stretham Charity Trustees? Why was a letter thanks not sent to those who applied but did not get a position on the Trust? Councillor Parish explained that the Parish Council is responsible for nominating 5 of the Charity Trustees hence the reason why applications are requested to be sent to the Parish Clerk. The Clerk explained

that this has always been the practice followed and the completion of a short application is requested to learn more about the people applying and ensuring the correct people are selected. Councillor Parish explained that the Parish Council has not taken over Stretham Charity Trustees and that the two new Trustees were fairly appointed via a voting system. The Clerk explained that letters of thanks have been sent out and that she could not understand why they had not been delivered.

Jo Simpson attended the meeting to discuss some concerns she has. Ms Simpson felt disappointed that the young people of village had been given the opportunity to take part in naming the new streets on the SWCLT Manor Farm development however that the older generation has not had any involvement. Councillor Parish explained that Stretham Youth Centre was awarded some money to complete a project on producing a helpful information booklet for people moving into the village and naming the streets was part of the project. Some older members of the community was involved with this project as they were interviewed about their knowledge and memories of the village. Ms Simpson then questioned if there is a conflict of interest with regard to Councillor Janet Parish being the Vice Chairperson of the Parish Council, the Chairperson of Stretham Youth Centre and a Trustee of Stretham Charity. Councillor Roberts responded to this question. The Parish Council has no issue whatsoever with the positions that Councillor Parish holds within the Village and that there is no conflict of interest. Councillor Roberts felt Ms Simpson's question and comments were hugely disappointing towards a person who puts so much free time and effort into the Village. Ms Simpson then raised a question about who is named on the Parish Council website with regards to Sub-Committees and Working Parties. The Clerk explained that only the Councillors and the Clerk are named as she would need to seek permission of other members to name them. This is possible if the non-Council member so desires.

To consider new ideas for the Parish Newsletter. Councillor Roberts explained that he feels the Newsletter is poor quality and could be much improved. Ideas discussed included a booklet style newsletter which contains a running list of upcoming events and a village diary. Councillor Taylor reminded the Council that the current Newsletter is an improvement on what used to be produced. It was agreed that Councillors Roberts, Nuttall and Thake would get together to discuss new ideas and also that the Clerk will ask for interested parties to get in contact if they are keen to be involved.

15/00605/FUL – Land to the North of Sadler Way. The Council viewed the plans and discussed this application to further develop a site which caused many concerns on the first phase. It was proposed by Councillor Parish to object to the application on road safety concerns as the number of vehicles using the A1123 is increasing rapidly. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Taylor and all Councillors were in favour. It was noted that still no response has been received in relation to the discharge of conditions on the original approval.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The tenders are now with local developers and the shortlist created. The target start date is now late August. Negotiation has started on a possible site in Wilburton.

The Clerk explained that Mr Hall of Truelink doesn't feel there is any work remaining on the flail of Eleanor's Field that was completed in summer 2013. The Clerk produced the tender paperwork which clearly states to the trees at the back of the field. The only reason the flail was not completed was because a mid-section of fencing was discovered. This mid-section has now been removed by Councillor Roberts. The invoice for the work has been paid. After discussion, the Council agreed the documentation clearly states to the back of the field and that this job is not complete. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Hall explaining that the Council has a good relationship with Truelink which they don't wish to sour and that it was acknowledged that the fencing was in the way thus stopping the flail being completed.

A letter of thanks from the Stop Berry Fen Wind Farm Group was read out thanking the Council for their support with the campaign.

The Post Office is proposing changes to Stretham Post Office which was discussed. The Council has no concerns about the changes and will write back to the Post Office. The Clerk was asked to put details of the proposed changes in the Newsletter so villagers can have a chance to comment. Councillor Nuttall confirmed that BT Infinity is now in the village. This news will be placed in the Newsletter.

To receive the Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held on 25th June 2015 and agree decisions made. The Minutes were read by all Councillors and the Clerk was asked to leave the room whilst the proposed increase to hours and pay was discussed. On return, the Council fully ratified the decision to increase the working hours to 16 per week and to increase the hourly rate to £15.36 per hour. This increase is to be back dated to 1st April 2015. All other decisions were agreed.

2015 08 PC
No meeting

2015 09 01 PC
All Weather Pitch – Amey Cespa has accepted our Expression of Interest and invited the Council to apply for £20K. The deadline is very tight with the full application requiring submittal by 11th September. The three quotations were reviewed from Artificial Grass (Cambridge) Ltd, Spade Oak and Charles Lawrence Surfaces Ltd. After careful consideration, the Council agreed that the quotation that will be put forward in the application was the quote from Artificial Grass (Cambridge) Ltd in the sum of £26,895 + vat. The Council will act as third party funders and make up the shortfall.

Eleanor's Field - Andrew Hall from Truelink Ltd has responded to say that it was not their understanding to cut to the back of the field and that the plan enclosed with the tender was simply to identify the field. Mr Hall offered to cut a pathway around the back section. The Council were disappointed with the response and declined the offer of a pathway being cut through and now see the matter as closed. The Clerk was asked to seek another. contractor to flail the back section.

The Church has responded to inform the Council they would be very happy to have a permanent Christmas Tree planted at the front of the Church. David Buller has met with Cathy White the Senior Tree Officer at ECDC who has confirmed that a DAC approval will be required which the Church is happy to arrange. The type of tree to be purchased was also put forward by the Church and agreed by the Council. A budget of £1,000 is set for the purchase and planting of the tree.

Pearce Memorial issue – following the letter sent by the Clerk on 7th June 2015, an email response has been received. W Kent memorials and the Pearce family feel it is unfair to allow the memorial for Mr Lewis to be oversized however not allow the oversized memorial for Mrs Pearce although this was an error of their part. The Council considered this carefully and agreed that a breach has still occurred and that in future, this breach would cause upset when requests are turned down for oversized memorials. The Council's Cemetery regulations are carefully written and approved and breach's must be dealt with. The Clerk was asked to respond explaining why an exception cannot be made and that the Council wish to cause no upset. The mistake lies with W Kent Memorials.

Stretham Sporting has requested a rent reduction now that All Weather Pitch has not been resurfaced in time for the start of the new season. The Council agreed that from 1st November 2015 to the opening of the resurfaced All Weather Pitch, they would meet half of the cost to hire the Astroturf at Little Thetford. This will be deducted from the January 2016 rent invoice.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.32pm for Public Participation. Mrs Chantler and Mrs Rippingale attended the meeting to listen to the Council discuss the Pavilion Nursery idea. Pursuant to the drawings supplied by the Architect, rough costs will now be obtained from local builders.
To discuss the WREN grant of £49,650 for Ely Road Play Area and agree the plan including consideration of tenders for the fencing and match funding payment of £5,337.38. Councillor Parish updated the meeting to confirm that the Council has been awarded the sum of £49,650 from WREN to replace the old equipment and surfacing at Ely Road Play Area. Volunteers will be clearing the site on Saturday 26th September 2015 from 10am. It is likely that work will start at the end of October with completion early December. Councillor Parish suggested contact be made with the daughter of Jean Adamson to see if she would consider attending the Opening Event to cut the ribbon and this Council agreed with this proposal. The Council resolved to pay the match funding sum of £5,337.38 from current available funds in the current account. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Speed, all Councillors in agreement.

The new fence and gate for the play area has been put out to tender and two quotations were received. Ratcliffe Fencing quoted £4990.88 and Arbantia Fencing quoted £4110.00. The Ratcliffe Fencing quotation most accurately reflected what is required and it was proposed by Councillor Thake and seconded by Councillor Prevett to accept the Ratcliffe Fencing tender, all Councillors in agreement.

To review the results of the Recreation Ground Survey and consider ideas to pursue
A total of 110 responses have been received which have been assessed and the results provided to Councillors. A further 30 completed questionnaires have just been received and the results will now be incorporated. Councillor Parish is very pleased with the number of replies received. The main items people would like to see is a picnic/seating area, more play equipment at the children's play area, the All Weather Pitch becoming usable again and some form of exercise equipment for all ages. Councillor Taylor will now meet with the Recreation Working Party before the next meeting and come back with some proposals for the Council to consider.

To consider new ideas for the Parish Newsletter and Parish Council website – short briefing from Councillors Nuttall and Thake. Councillor Nuttall explained to the meeting that the current website is not user friendly and is not updated regularly. Councillor Nuttall suggested involving the community with the website to decrease the workload of the Clerk by allowing each user group to input their own information once approved by the Council. There could be an Events calendar, a booking page for Parish Rooms and Pavilion, an individual Feast page and links to other websites. The Council is unhappy with the design of the current Newsletter but felt it is important that the monthly publication should continue. Not everyone in the village uses the internet however the newsletter should be uploaded onto the website. An A5 booklet style newsletter was favoured by the Councillors and Lisa Migdal and Laura Shearing produced examples of how it could look. After much discussion, it was agreed that a temporary Working Party should be formed and include the Clerk to look at options and bring back recommendations to full Council. Members of the Communications Working Party are Councillors Roberts, Nuttall, Thake, Mackenzie and the Clerk. Meeting set for 17th September 2015.

To consider if the Council wish to make a bid for Speed Reduction Gates via the LHI Scheme. The Clerk briefly explained the LHI Scheme to the Council. There was concern as to whether speed reduction gates actually do succeed in reducing the speed of traffic. The Clerk offered to attend an information event on the Scheme on 14th September 2015. Councillor Bright to attend with the Clerk.

To consider initial drawings for nursery proposal at the Pavilion and agree next step
The initial drawings have been received from the Architects however there was some confusion as to how much the build costs may possibly be. The Clerk was asked to

approach a selection of local builders to gauge a rough cost for the extension to the building. This item is to be placed on the Agenda for discussion in October.

14/01007/ESF - Erection of 2 wind turbines at Red Hill Farm Stretham – Revised Environmental Statement. The third Environmental Statement has been submitted by the Applicant to ECDC. After considerable discussion, it was agreed the Council would object again to this application for the following reasons:
- there has been insufficient consultation (and none in the last year)
- the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have NOT been fully addressed
- the proposal does NOT have the backing of the local community

The new Environmental Statement does not fully address our previous objections, including those related to :
- Impact on visual amenity
- Impact on Landscape
- Noise pollution
- Effect on property prices, having effect on mobility
- Lack of public consultation
- Lack of Grid connection
- Interference with television signals

It was also agreed to enclose the Ministerial Statement dated 18 Jun 2015 which sets out new considerations to be applied to proposed wind energy developments. This objection was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Thake, all Councillors in agreement. The Council passed thanks to Councillor Nuttall and the Stop Stretham Wind Farm Group for all their work.

15/00798/FUL - Saunders Piece – Change of use of land to storage of caravans including new security fencing and new (retrospective) equipment storage shed
The Council viewed the plans and discussed the application in considerable detail. It was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Prevett to object to the application for the following reasons:
- The storage shed has been built outside of the development envelope.
- The area is inappropriate for caravan storage.
- There is no information on how many caravans would be stored on the site.
- The A10 is a very busy road and there are concerns for the safety of vehicles exiting the site south towards Cambridge.

All Councillors in favour of the proposed objection apart from Councillor Speed who abstained.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The application for 24 units as part of a Phase 3 has just been submitted to ECDC. There is a consultation event in Stretham about this application between 15-21 September 2015. The start date on Phase 1 is likely to be in October.

An email … was read out regarding the recent agricultural accident in Wilburton and the need for drivers of tractors to drive more responsibly. Councillor Roberts explained that this problem has already been discussed with Lucy Frazer when she attended the meeting in Stretham to flag up this worrying problem. County and District Councillor Bill Hunt is currently putting together some options to start resolving this issue which includes a scheme for responsible farmers to use the larger A roads whenever possible and commit to a top speed on 15mph when travelling through villages. Stretham Parish Council has tried to involve the local community to help in reducing the speed of all types of vehicles in the village however no volunteers came forward.

2015 10 06 PC
Notification has been received that the DAC has turned down the request from St James' Church for the Parish Council to be allowed to plant a permanent Christmas Tree at the front of the church. It was felt the location was too close to the retaining wall amongst other reasons. It was agreed to continue to purchase and erect a temporary Christmas Tree each year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.12pm for Public Participation.
Mr Tim Bent and Mr Clive Judd spoke to the Council about the Dimmocks Cote Quarry Planning Application based between Stretham and Wicken. Mr Judd and Mr Bent attended the Council meeting in February 2015 and an amendment to the application is currently open for comment. Mr Bent and Mr Judd are still attempting to raise awareness in the village and Wicken PC is hardening their response to this application. The main concern for the village of Stretham is the considerable increase in HGV movements each year. Councillor Hunt listened to the concerns and advised people to attend the Planning Committee meeting when it takes place. The amendment to the application is to be discussed under point 12 of the Agenda, Planning.

Mrs Murfitt attended to discuss a section of a public footpath which has been removed. Councillor Roberts confirmed the land in question is owned by Godfrey Parish and farmed by John Parish. The Council will make contact with John Parish about this issue.

Mr Richard Breedon attended the meeting regarding the proposal for the Bar Park/outdoor exercise equipment. Mr Breedon feels this idea has been brushed under the carpet and requested an update on progress. Councillor Roberts explained that this matter has not been brushed aside and that much work has been taking place over recent months. The consultation with the village is now complete and ideas for the Recreation Ground are to be discussed later in the meeting.

To discuss the Amey Cespa grant of £20,000 for a new All Weather Pitch surface
Councillors Taylor and Parish updated the meeting to confirm that the Council has been awarded the sum of £20,000 from Amey Cespa to replace the old surfacing at the All Weather Pitch at the Recreation Ground. It is likely that work will start in December and should take around one week. Stretham Sporting FC committed £600.00 to this project. The Council resolved to pay the remainder of the cost of this project which is £6295.00. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Parish, all Councillors in agreement. Artificial Grass (Cambridge) Ltd was selected as the provider for this project and has requested a 25% deposit. Councillor Nuttall has looked at this company's accounts and the most recent accounts are not yet filed. The Council requested that the Clerk obtain some verbal references from other companies who have used Artificial Grass (Cambridge) Ltd before sending off the deposit cheque (total £8068.50). The Clerk will inform that Finance Sub-Committee of the outcome of the enquiries before the cheque is sent off.

To review the updated results of the Recreation Ground Survey and the proposed Action Plan put forward by the Recreation Working Party and agree. A total of 166 responses have been received which have been assessed and the results provided to Councillors. Councillor Parish is very pleased with the number of replies received and was thanked for the time she has put into this exercise. The main items people would like to see is a picnic/seating area, more play equipment at the children's play area, the All Weather Pitch becoming usable again and some form of exercise equipment for all ages. Based on the results, the Council agreed the following:
Phase 1 – 2015 - 2016
1. Picnic seating to be fixed in South East corner of the Recreation Ground.
2. Outdoor gym area to be installed beside the Northern boundary of the All Weather Surface subject to funding being obtained to cover all cost. The Recreation Working Party will provide details of companies the Clerk should approach to tender. This work will

commence when the Ely Road Play Area project and the All Weather Pitch projects are complete.
3. Recreation Working Party to facilitate a meeting for all interested in forming new sports clubs.
4. Signage regarding dogs replaced with signs giving the same message and clear consequences of allowing dogs to foul on the Recreation Ground.
Phase 2 – 2016 – 2017
1. Two more items of play equipment to be positioned in the play area.
2. Basketball hoop to be installed next to the All Weather Surface.

To consider tender proposals put forward by the Communications Working Party for the Parish Newsletter and Parish Council website. The newly formed Communications Working Party met in September and put forward two tenders for consideration by Council. The first tender is for the initial design of the Newsletter and production of a template and the second tender is for the ongoing production of the newsletter. Both tenders were agreed by Council and will be ready for consideration in December.

10. To consider if the Council wish to make a bid for Speed Reduction Gates via the LHI Scheme
The Clerk briefly explained the LHI Scheme to the Council. There was concern as to whether speed reduction gates actually do succeed in reducing the speed of traffic. The Clerk offered to attend an information event on the Scheme on 14th September 2015. Councillor Bright to attend with the Clerk.

To consider a request to fund an ECG Machine for Stretham Doctors Surgery
Councillor Bright has been approached by a Nurse at Stretham Doctors Surgery regarding the lack of an available ECG machine. The Haddenham Doctors Surgery has one machine but it would be extremely beneficial to have one machine at both surgeries. The surgery at Stretham will be opening for longer hours when it hopefully moves into the new purpose built surgery on the Manor Farm development. The approximate cost is £1800.00. The Council discussed this request and agreed this is a purchase that Stretham Charity could maybe consider. Councillor Bright was asked to write to Stretham Charity Trustees and this matter be deferred until a decision has been made by Stretham Charity.

15/00986/FUM – Land formerly 21 Newmarket Road. This application is linked to the Manor Farm SWCLT development and consists of 25 houses of which 8 will be CLT houses. The plans were reviewed and Councillor Parish put forward a proposal to the Council to strongly support this planning application for the benefits it will bring to Stretham. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Mackenzie and all Councillors were in favour. The Council resolved to strongly support this application.

E/3008/14/CM – Dimmocks Quote Quarry, Wicken.
Following discussion within Public Participation, the Council resolved to object again to this application focussing mainly on the additional road movements through Stretham, the lack of pedestrian crossing in Stretham, the additional traffic with the new SWCLT Manor Farm development and the dangerous Green End bend. This was proposed by Councillor Mackenzie and seconded by Councillor Nuttall, all Councillors in favour. The Clerk will publicise this application in the Newsletter and copy the Council's reponse to all local Parish Clerks.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The work has finally started on the Manor Farm site and the first houses have been marked out. It is hoped the first CLT homes will be ready for occupation May-June 2016.

Councillor Roberts updated the meeting with regards to correspondence between Mr Doug Stuart and the Clerk and Mr Stuart and Councillor Roberts. All correspondence was read out which includes some concerning accusations against both the Clerk and the Councillors. One Freedom of Information request has been received and responded to. Councillor Roberts will continue to monitor the situation and noted his absolute disagreement with the accusations that have been made

Amenities Working Party – The organic waste bin at the Cemetery is being abused and Councillor Parish sought permission to have it removed and wheelie bins put in place. This was agreed. The area where the Recycling area was previously located on the Recreation ground requires some work. Two trees will be required to cover over the gap and a reinforced grass area was recommended at a cost of around £10 per square meter. This

2015 09 27
Welcome to the new Stretham Parish Council Website
September 27, 2015WebsiteRichard Nuttall
Welcome to the new look website.
We are working to make the new website more easy to update and maintain and more interactive. Please feel free to add comments about what you would like to see on the new website, either about the Parish Council or about Stretham Village.
We are on the lookout for good photos of Stretham to use on the website, so if you have any suitable photos you would like to contribute, please let us know **viagra 50mg prix**.

2015 10 22
Ode to pub joy at the Red Lion, Stretham: welcome new chef. 2015 10 22 EN

2015 10 22
Find another archives venue: letter from Stewart Kidd, Wilburton about CRO move to Ely. 2015 10 22a # c.43

2015 10 27
On the River Old West at the Lazy Otter. She was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay costs of 250

2015 11 03 PC
Pavilion nursery idea – The first quotation has come in at £245,000 which is way too high. The Clerk was instructed to approach some local builders to obtain further costings.

Mr Doug Stuart attended the meeting to voice his opinion on the Recreation Ground questionnaire that was circulated to all households in Stretham over the Summer. Mr Stuart asked the Council if they felt the questionnaire was inadequate. This question was asked a number of times and Councillor Bright confirmed he felt the questionnaire was adequate and had achieved gaining an insight into what the community would like to see happen at the Recreation Ground. Mr Stuart felt that 166 responses out of 1800 distributed is low and that an online survey would have been more effective. Councillor Roberts thanked Mr Stuart for his comments and explained that the results will hopefully enable the Council to achieve funding for the Outdoor Gym Equipment to be sited at the north end of the All Weather Pitch.

To formally adopt Publications Scheme. Following circulation of the Publications Scheme to all Councillors, it was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Pearce to formally adopt the Publications Scheme. The Council resolved unanimously to accept this.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The work is going smoothly on site and is currently running to schedule. Some concerns have been raised about the positioning of the fencing at the front of the site and Councillor Roberts

agreed to look into this. Councillor Parish asked if the Council could approach the Developer, Laragh Homes, to see if they would be prepared to make a contribution towards the cost of producing and distributing a Welcome Pack to all homes in Stretham. All Councillors agree this is a good idea and asked the Clerk to write to Simon Somerville-Large.

A letter from Cheffins was read out regarding a potential housing development at the top of Berry Close. If a Planning Application is submitted, the Council will make a judgement at that time and suggested to Cheffins that the residents of Stretham are properly consulted.

An email … was read out regarding his concerns for the possible change of the main room at the Pavilion into a childcare nursery. He felt that the residents of Short Road should have been consulted about this idea and that it had not been communicated effectively in the newsletter. The Clerk confirmed the idea was covered clearly in the March 2015 newsletter and is always covered in the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings which are available on the website. The fact that the Pavilion is a financial burden to the Parish Council has been raised a number of times at audit. The Parish Council fully supports keeping the facility open for sporting uses however must look at ways to increase income if the venue is to remain open. The Council inherited the Pavilion and SSRC as a charity from a defunct trust. The Parish Council sought the views of the community on potential uses to mitigate the losses the Council incurs. The idea of a Community Café was investigated however a suitable person to take this on could not be found. The provision of a child-care nursery has been suggested by a local person and the Council has entered into a Feasibility study which is currently underway. If there is commercial potential, the whole village will then be consulted.

An email … was read out regarding the fact that Goose Lane (running between Reads Street and Brook Lane) is occasionally being used by vehicles. The Council confirmed that Goose Lane is in fact a highway and hence vehicles are allowed to use it. There is currently no signage identifying Goose Lane and the Clerk was asked to contact ECDC about a sign being erected.

The Clerk raised her concerns about the level of correspondence communications being made between herself and Mr Stuart and Councillor Roberts and Mr Stuart. A number of Freedom of Information requests have been made by Mr Stuart and have been responded to. The Clerk is upset by the accusations made in the emails which are completely untrue and unfounded. Councillor Parish is also very concerned about the criticism of the Council and also of her work on the Recreation ground Survey. Councillor Parish and the Clerk both have serious concerns about communicating and/or working with Mr Stuart after such allegations and criticism. The Council fully supports the work of the Clerk and Councillor Parish and it was agreed that Councillor Roberts would handle any communication with Mr Stuart for the foreseeable future.

2015 11 12
Head to head over Grunty Fen: Christopher South talks to Fenland History on Friday; photo South & Mike Petty 2015 11 12 ES

2015 12 01 PC
Mr Jeff Barton attended the meeting to notify the Council of the Scout Groups concerns about the floor at the Parish Rooms. It was agreed to assist with this issue that the heating will be left on and that a dehumidifier could be purchased and installed if necessary.

To receive a presentation from Cheffins regarding a proposed new housing development in Stretham
Mr Ben Pridgeon from Cheffins attended the meeting to discuss the proposed new housing development close to Berry Close of around 50 houses and associated space. Mr Pridgeon explained that although the site is outside of the development envelope, due to East Cambridgeshire District Council not currently able to demonstrate a 5 year supply of land in the district, the application will likely be submitted. Cheffins is now appointing various consultants with a view to submitting the Planning Application early in March 2016. Mr

Pridgeon confirmed that the main access route to this development would be through the village. Councillor Roberts explained that there are already concerns about increased levels of traffic passing by the School and onto Reads Street and Top Street. Councillor Roberts asked if Mr Pridgeon has heard of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust to which he said he had not. Councillor Roberts explained that SWCLT is currently building over 70 houses and some business units at Manor Farm in Stretham and that this is an increase of 10% in the number of dwellings in Stretham. Mr Pridgeon confirmed there will be rigorous consultation and that residents will be listened to. The Council thanked Mr Pridgeon for attending the meeting.

To agree the annual precept request for financial year 2016-2017
Councillor Roberts explained to Council that the Finance Sub-Committee had met recently to discuss the annual precept request. The current precept is £51,624. Due to the fact that Cambridgeshire County Council has very little money and is making significant budget cuts, it is now reality that many maintenance tasks within every village will fall upon the Parish Council to pick up. The Council has already seen this with grass cutting being significantly reduced and also repairs to roads getting very difficult to achieve. The Council is currently running to a pretty tight budget and all this has been taken into consideration. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts to increase the request to £64,000 and this was seconded by Councillor Prevett. The Council unanimously agreed to increase the precept request to £64,000, this is an increase of about 22%.

To discuss and agree any actions regarding the oversized memorial stone at the Cemetery
The Clerk read out recent correspondence with W Kent Memorials about the oversized memorial stone of Maria Georgina Pearce. W Kent Memorials are stating that the new recently laid memorial stone (Murfitt) is also oversized. Councillor Parish agreed to measure the Murfitt memorial and report back to the next meeting. The Council is extremely disappointed that W Kent Memorials has acknowledged that they made the error however will not rectify the situation.

To review tenders for a new Newsletter template
Two tenders were sent out to four individuals/businesses. There were no tenders returned for the design of a newsletter template and it was agreed that the net should be cast wider with the distribution of this tender. The Clerk will do this in readiness for the February meeting. Two tenders were received for the monthly design, production and printing of the newsletter. Miss Laura Shearing and C and C Media Ltd tendered. Both tenders were discussed in detail and the Council took the view that they would like a fresh approach to the newsletter and preferred the design of Miss Shearing. It was proposed by Councillor Parish to accept the tender of Miss Shearing at £580 per month. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Mackenzie and unanimously agreed by Council. It was agreed to ask C and C Media to continue to produce and print the Newsletter for December 2015, January 2016 and February 2016. The delivery of the Newsletter will be advertised in the January 2016 Newsletter.

To consider the purchase of a Defibrillator
Councillor Parish explained how the purchase of a Defibrillator will benefit the community following sad incident in the Red Lion recently and of the need for a village defibrillator. The Red Lion has already started to fundraise for a defibrillator and Councillor Parish agreed to investigate the costs of purchasing one via St John’s Ambulance. Councillor Parish proposed that the Council put the sum of £750 towards a defibrillator and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Pearce. The Council unanimously agreed to put the sum of £750 towards this piece of life saving equipment. The defibrillator will hopefully be located in the Red Lion which is open from 7am right through to late in the evening every day so access will be very easy. The Parish Council will make the purchase and maintain the equipment.
13. To consider planning applications

15/01236/FUL – Developing Dogs, Whitecross Farm, Wilburton, erection of three holiday Lodges. Councillor Roberts explained the details of this planning application. There are some concerns that the Holiday Lets may become permanent dwellings. The Council came to the view that as long as some stringent conditions are applied to a permission, then they had no objections to this planning application.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The work is going smoothly on site and is currently running to schedule. The concerns about the positioning of the fencing at the front of the site have been resolved by Councillor Roberts and Laragh Homes. The fencing has been moved back to improve visibility.

An email from County and District Councillor Bill Hunt was received and read out regarding his concerns about traffic speeds on A1123 particularly HCVs and fast tracks. Councillor Hunt suggests Stretham purchase 4 Correx signs which are currently being used in Wilburton. The total cost to the Council is £70.32 including VAT. The Council agreed to purchase 4 signs and would arrange erection via Pam Joyce at Highways.

Ely Road Play Area Working Party – the last meeting of this Working Party has happened and it is hoped the new play area will be opened on Saturday 19th December at 3pm. The Council would like to approach Jean Adamson about naming the play area after the Topsy and Tim books.

2015 12 10
Tea and clemency at the real Grunty Fen … Christopher South meets real residents of the area he explored on Radio Cambridgeshire with 'Dennis', 2015 12 10 CN

2015 12 11 p16
Samsung donates equipment Stretham youth

2015 12 19 p44
At Stretham surprising and cheerful festive giant minions

-o-o-2016-o-o-

2016 01 05 PC
Pavilion nursery idea –BSV Construction has submitted a quote in the sum of £107,000 for the alterations to the Pavilion to create a children's day nursery. It was agreed a meeting with Mrs Chantler is now required and the Councillors to be involved are Charles Roberts, Richard Nuttall and Andrew Prevett.

Pearce Memorial issue – Councillor Parish has visited the cemetery and provided measurements of all memorial stones in the new section. It became apparent that the Pearce memorial is unfortunately not the only memorial stone that is larger than permitted measurements. Councillor Parish and the Clerk both cannot understand how this has happened as both check the measurements prior to approval being given. The Clerk asked that all future requests be checked by more Councillors to give reassurance that this will not happen again. After lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Thake that the Council accept the Pearce memorial as it stands however ask for a contribution from W Kent Memorials towards the upkeep of the area around the stone. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Prevett and all Councillors were in favour.

15/01346/FUL, Land north of Amberside, Stretham Station Road, Wilburton (consulted as a neighbouring parish) Several letters of objection have been received by the Council from concerned residents living in the area of this application. The application was discussed in detail and the plans

viewed. The main concern is that the land is outside of the development envelope. There is also a considerable flood risk (this land is very close to a piece of land that the Council owns that was flooded at times in 2015). It was proposed by Councillor Parish to object on the following grounds: - Flood risk - Outside of the development envelope - Detrimental to the open landscape This proposal was agreed by all Councillors aside from Councillor Speed.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The work is going smoothly on site and is currently running to schedule. The houses are starting to be built and it is hoped that the first 3 CLT houses will be ready for occupation in May 2016.

Artificial Grass (Cambridge) Ltd has submitted an invoice for £24,205.50. The Clerk proposed that this amount is moved from the Business Bank Instant account over into the Treasurers Account and a cheque be raised and signed at this meeting. Once Amey Cespa has paid the £20,000 into the Treasurer's Account and ECDC has paid the CIL payment, the £24,205.50 will be moved back into the Business Bank Instant account. It was proposed by Councillor Murfitt and seconded by Councillor Parish that this proposal be accepted. All Councillors in agreement. Cheque number 002192 was raised in the sum of £24,250.50 and signed.

Councillor Murfitt reported the increased number of speeding vehicles on Short Road. Short Road is also being used as a rat run when the A10 is busy at peak times. Names of particular offenders were given. It was agreed to place a piece on the speeding vehicles in the Newsletter and to mention that the Council already has the names of suspected offenders. Residents will be encouraged to report the registration plates directly to the Police on 101.

Councillor Nuttall reported that the new PC website is now having up to 80 hits a day. The Councillors were pleased the new website is being used.

2016 01 16 p76
Sport enthusiasts in Stretham area are celebrating a new all-weather pitch has opened in village – photo – 2916 01 16 CN

2016 02 02 PC
A resident of Berry Close visited to ask if the Council has received any updates on the proposed planning application on land to the north of Berry Close. Councillor Parish explained the Council has not heard anything further. Councillor Roberts explained that the Council already has concerns around the access to the development.

Mr Doug Stuart attended the meeting and asked for permission to record his contribution. The Chairperson gave permission. Mr Stuart raised a number of concerns relating to the consultation exercise already undertaken by the Council in relation to the proposed fitness equipment for the recreation ground. Mr Stuart also raised concerns about the accuracy of minutes of his contributions to council meetings. The Chairperson explained the current status of the fitness equipment project and the need to balance the interests of the whole community. Councillors saw no need for further action.

To consider draft Parish Rooms Village Survey. All Councillors had received the draft Parish Rooms Village Survey prior to the meeting and Councillor Parish explained the reasons for the survey and the questions. A few amendments were suggested and accepted. This survey will be distributed in the Newsletter in March, will be placed on the website and will also be available via Survey Monkey. Copies will also hopefully be placed in the Doctors Surgery, the shop and the Garage.

8. To formally appoint and set-up a Pavilion Development Sub-Committee
Now that some credible ideas are being discussed about how to increase income from the

Pavilion to assist in keeping the facility open, it was proposed by Councillor Roberts that a Sub-Committee be formed to assist in moving ideas and decisions along. A draft Terms of Reference for the Pavilion Development Sub-Committee was circulated and the content agreed. The following Councillors will be members of the Pavilion Development SubCommittee: Roberts, Prevett, Nuttall, Taylor and Mackenzie. The proposal by Councillor Roberts was seconded by Councillor Pearce and the Council resolved to create this new sub-committee.

9. To consider applying to Register the Red Lion Public House to become a Community Asset. Councillor Roberts explained the important history of the Red Lion Public House and the importance it holds within the Village, very much acting as a 'hub' for the community. It is possible to apply to register the Red Lion with East Cambridgeshire District Council to become a Community Asset. Applying for a Community Asset enables the Council to nominate the Red Lion as important for the social well-being of the area for inclusion on the local authority's 'List of Assets of Community Value' and bid for it if it comes up for sale. Councillor Roberts proposed to submit an application and this was seconded by Councillor Mackenzie. The Council resolved via a unanimous vote to proceed with the application.

10. To receive and agree recommendations from the Recreation Working Party regarding the proposed Outdoor Gym
The Notes of the Recreation Working Party meeting were circulated prior to the meeting. It is proposed to take two tenders forward to Public Consultation, these being Hags SMP and Fresh Air Fitness. Councillor Roberts proposed to accept the recommendations of the Working Party and Councillor Speed seconded this. The Council resolved unanimously to accept the recommendations.

15/01531/OUT – Land adjacent to 16 Fieldside
Councillor Nuttall left the room whilst this planning application was discussed.
The Council carefully considered this application and felt it fits with the surrounding area and is of low impact to dwellings nearby. Councillor Roberts proposed the Council raise no objections to the application subject to adequate width of the public footpath remaining. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Pearce and the Council resolved unanimously via vote in favour.
- 16/00031/VAR – Gravel Farm, Newmarket Road
The Council carefully considered this application. Councillor Roberts proposed the Council raise no objections to the application. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Prevett and the Council resolved unanimously via vote in favour.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The roofs are going onto the first batch of houses and should be ready by early July. SWCLT is receiving a lot of attention nationally and this is very positive for the village of Stretham.

One tender has been received for the Newsletter template design after two other companies declined to tender. The tender received is from Proaction Design in the sum of £1050.00. Councillor Roberts was able to vouch for the work that Proaction Design produces and proposed that the Council accept the tender. Councillor Thake seconded this proposal and it was resolved by Council to accept this tender via a unanimous vote.

One tender has been received for the revamp of the Recycling Area. The tender was submitted by OddJobs 24/7 in the sum of £1529.10. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Prevett to accept this tender. Via a unanimous vote, the Council resolved to proceed with OddJobs 24/7.

One tender has been received for turf to be laid at Ely Road Play Area from Anglian Turf

Supplies in the sum of £1301.67. This is a reduced price if the Council allows Anglian Turf to advertise at the site. The Clerk explained the situation in that there is no time to obtain two other tenders for this work as they play area is due to open on the 12th February and cannot do so until the turf is laid. The ground not covered with the safety surface is uneven and contains sharp objects. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts that on the grounds of safety and urgency that this price should be accepted and that Anglian Turf Supplies should be allowed to advertise for one year. This was seconded by Councillor Prevett. Councillor Nuttall countered this with an amendment to not allow Anglian Turf Supplies to advertise however no other Councillors were in agreement with this. Via a vote, the Council resolved to accept the quote of £1301.67 and move forward with the job as a matter of urgency.

An email from ECDC regarding a Beacon being lit in the village on 21st April 2016 in recognition of the Queen's 90th Birthday was read out and the Council agreed it would like to light a Beacon in Stretham. The following Councillors will make the plans for this event: Roberts, Mackenzie, Parish, Taylor and Prevett.

Via Mr Neil Ford, Mr and Mrs Hubbard have indicated that they would like to replace the broken bench at the Rec. The Council is grateful for this kind offer and are happy if Mr and Mrs Hubbard wish to proceed.

To consider a proposal to exclude the public and press from part 2 of the meeting on the grounds of confidentiality relating to the Pavilion Nursery proposal
Councillor Roberts proposed the Council exclude public and press from Part 2 of the meeting and this was seconded by Councillor Prevett. The Council resolved via a unanimous vote to proceed with the exclusion.

2016 03 01 PC
The Topsy and Tim play area is being very well used after the Grand Opening and Ladybird has agreed to the Council using an image of Topsy and Tim on the Noticeboard (to be ordered).
A group of residents of Wicken affected by the Dimmocks Cote Quarry planning application attended the meeting to share their concern at the transport figures quoted in the application. Ted Clover of Clover Planning Services was also in attendance with a representative from Francis Flower (the Owner of the quarry). Mr Clover attempted to provide clarification on the traffic figures however after lengthy discussion, there was general agreement that the number of road movements is still very unclear. Councillor Roberts expressed his concerns that Francis Flowers will have no control over the hauliers travelling through the villages of Stretham and Wicken and that no consultation has happened with those directly affected.
- E/3008/14/CM – Dimmocks Cote Quarry
Following the lengthy discussion and debate about this planning application in the Public Participation section of the meeting, it was proposed by Councillor Parish to reiterate and re-submit the original objections and this was seconded by Councillor Mackenzie. The Councillors voted unanimously in favour of this proposal. Clerk to communicate immediately.

6. To agree plans for the Queen's 90th Birthday Beacon to be held on 21st April 2016
The Council agreed to take part in the lighting of a Beacon on the Queen's 90th Birthday in April. Councillor Roberts suggested that land at the back of Berry Green be used and all agreed this was an appropriate location. The event will run from 7.30pm-9pm and the beacon will be lit around 8pm. It was agreed it would be nice to provide one drink to those who attend for free and Councillors Pearce, Thake and Mackenzie will make arrangements with a budget of £300. The budget for the cost of the fire basket was agreed as £100. These expenses were proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Parish,

all Councillors in agreement. Councillor Parish raised the idea of providing each primary school child in the Village with a commemorative coin to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday. The Council provided a coin in 2012 for the Jubilee and it was well received. The cost would be £405.50. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Nuttall and all Councillors were in agreement.

An email from Julie Langford was read out regarding the new signs that are due to be erected on the Recreation Ground very soon and also about the problem of dog fouling on the Rec and down Short Road. The Clerk has replied accordingly informing Mrs Langford that the signs have just been ordered and will erected as soon as they are ready. Dogs will still be allowed to be off lead on the recreation ground.

An email from Circus Tyanna has been received requesting the Circus visit Stretham Recreation ground from 15th to 19th June 2016. The Council agreed to this request. Councillor Parish requested that the Circus ensure posters are removed from around the Village straight after the 19th

An email from the Local Highways Improvement Initiative has been received confirming that Stretham Parish Council has been awarded £1040.00 (90% of the total cost) for Gates to highlight entry to the village. It is hoped that these gates will assist in speed reduction.

Councillor Taylor reported that the Pantomime went very well with a total of 296 tickets sold.

2016 04 05 PC
7. To discuss the Short Road encroachment and agree the next steps. Pam Joyce of Highways has confirmed that there is an encroachment onto the Highway by Messrs Idesons and has requested what the Parish Council wish to do about this issue. Many years back, the Parish Council decided to take a zero tolerance view on any encroachment and it was decided this is still their view. If ignored, it is felt this sends the wrong signal to others who consider encroaching public highway/land. This encroachment quite clearly increases the footprint of the garage and has grown over time. Although this encroachment doesn't affect the Highway, it doesn't make it right. It was proposed by Councillor Thake that the Council ask the Assets Team at Cambridgeshire County Council to enforce this encroachment and claim back the land. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Parish and all Councillors were in agreement

To consider and agree proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations. The Councillors all received the amended Financial Regulations with the proposed amendments clearly marked. The amendments were suggested by the Finance Sub-Committee. No questions were raised and all Councillors were satisfied with the amendments. It was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Thake that the amendments to the Financial Regulations be approved by Council and all Councillors were in agreement.

16/00310/VAR – Land Parcel to the east of Meadowcroft
This variation application relates to tree planting and was reviewed carefully by the Councillors. It was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Thake to raise no objections to this planning application, all in agreement.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The Clerk issues have now been resolved and Nicola Mackenzie is now the Clerk to SWCLT. Councillor Roberts is happy that everything is now back on track. An Allocations Sub-Committee has just been formed and the process will now start with eligibility assessments.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Stretham Sporting rent invoice in the sum of £606.00 is now overdue (invoiced on 10th February and requested payment before year end on 31st March).

An email regarding the new style newsletter was read out. Councillor Roberts explained the few teething problems that had been encountered and apologised to Councillor Murfitt that his name and contact information was missed out. The March Newsletters were delivered by James Thew who lives in the village. Councillor Roberts explained that James would like to continue to deliver the monthly newsletter and all Councillors were in agreement with this.

Recreation Working Party – the bench bases are complete and once the grass has grown around them, the benches will be places on the bases. Councillor Roberts raised the issue of the paint flaking on some of the play equipment and it was agreed that the equipment should be repainted. The Clerk confirmed the slide repair is still to happen. The gravel in the car park is becoming very sparse and it was agreed that 5/6 tonne of gravel should be purchased and spread.

Amenities Working Party – Councillor Parish explained that a grave had been run over by the digger when the Bidwell grave was being excavated. Clerk to inform the relevant Funeral service.

2016 05 03 PC
To discuss outdoor gym consultation. Two designs were put forward for consultation and comment in April both via the website and via a Consultation Event held at the Parish Rooms on a Saturday morning. Thirty six people responded online and unfortunately all apart from one contained very negative comments. Just one person attended the event at the Parish Rooms. Due to the overwhelmingly negative public consultation and lack of support across the wide community, Councillor Parish proposed that the Parish Council cannot obtain funding for the project and therefore to take no further action. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Roberts and all Councillors voted unanimously in favour. It was agreed that if an individual or group in the village wishes to raise their own funding, the Parish Council would consider this project again at that point in time.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a comprehensive update to the Council on the progress of SWCLT. There are a good number of applicants for the shared ownership houses and these are currently being reviewed. The first three CLT houses are likely to be shared ownership. An Allocations Sub-Committee has been formed to start the process of those who have applied to rent a CLT property. The first three houses should be ready in August

2016 06 07 PC
Public participation. A significant number of people were in attendance, all focussed on the planning application for nine dwellings at Meadow Farm on Fieldside. Mr Rich opened the discussions by expressing his concerns about the drainage situation in the Short road/Fieldside/Green End area of the village and that the drains overflow very easily in moderate rain. Mr Rich explained the sewer is at capacity and that Anglian Water regularly has to clean it out. Mr Robert Hopkins confirmed that he is in the possession of a letter from Anglian Water dated December 2014 where is it clearly stated that there are issues with the pipes in the area. Other points raised included no public notice, the safety concerns, close to a children's play area. Within the discussions, Councillor Roberts, in his capacity as a District Councillor, agreed to call-in the application to the Planning Committee at ECDC.

To review suggested sites put forward for consideration in the Local Plan. A total of 4 sites have been put forward as suggested sites for development for inclusion in the Local Plan. The Council carefully considered each site and instructed the Clerk to reply as follows:
Site 25/01 – located to the north of the village close to Berry Green and Akeman Close
The major concern with this site is the vehicular access to the site. If access was through the village, vehicle movements would increase significantly and would all pass by Stretham Primary School on what is a very narrow section of road. Top Street is already a very busy street with frequent parking problems and this site would only serve to increase the problems. Access via the A10 only would be preferred.

Site 25/02 – located to the east of the village close to the current Community Land Trust Development currently being built. The Council would support development in this area by the Community Land Trust to increase affordable housing in Stretham. It would be a natural continuation of development to Stretham.
Site 25/03 – located to the south of Stretham on the A10/Wilburton Road area.The Council expressed serious concerns with this proposed site due to the access and proximity to the A10. The Council also expressed the proximity of the site to a Grade I listed building.
Site 17/01 – Moorings to the south-east of Stretham
The Council made no comment on this site.
The Council felt that sustainability should be carefully considered when looking at areas for development in Stretham as there is already 75 homes being built and the village has already seen growth. It was proposed by Councillor Pearce and seconded by Councillor Parish to submit the above responses and all Councillors were in favour.
- 16/00611/OUT – Meadow Farm, Fieldside. Following on from the discussion within the Public Participation section of the meeting, the Council discussed the application in detail and the concerns around it. It was proposed by Councillor Thake and seconded by Councillor Prevett to oppose the application for the following reasons:
- the Manor Farm development is providing substantial development for the village and this proposal offers no affordable housing
- safety
- access
- infrastructure
- drainage/sewer condition
- lack of consultation with neighbouring properties
- an inappropriate mix of housing.

All Councillors voted in full agreement to oppose this application with one abstention from Councillor Nuttall. The Council's full response can be viewed on the ECDC Planning Portal (ref: 16/00611/OUT). District Councillor Roberts agreed to 'call in' this planning application to the Planning Committee for decision.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The Opening Weekend went very well with over 100 visitors to the Show Home. The Open Event for those directly involved with the development also went very well. The first three Community Land Trust homes will be ready early in August and those people who expressed an interest in part buy/part rent options are now being contacted.

A letter regarding the removal of a level crossing in Stretham ward was read out. It was agreed that as long as the Right of Way is not affected, the Council is happy to support the removal.

Feast Sub-Committee – Councillor Parish reported the Feast had run very smoothly with many hundreds of people enjoying themselves. The weather was kind. It was agreed that the Council should write to the Caledonian Pipe Band to thank them for such a good display of their skills. The Feast Sub-Committee was thanked as a whole and special thanks was paid to the Clerk.

Councillor Parish reported a near miss at the Green End junction where a man ended up being pushed into a hedge after a lorry mounted the pavement. The Clerk confirmed there is an increasing level of concern around the A1123. It was agreed to seek an urgent meeting with Pam Joyce from Highways about these issues.

2016 06 28 p4
Reports of two vehicle collision on the A10 at Stretham

2016 07 05 PC
Councillor Roberts provided an update on the meeting with Highways and Road Safety around the safety issues at the Green End junction on the A1123. It is very obviously a

dangerous section of the road especially for users of the pavement which is often mounted. Now that the Dimmocks Cote planning application has been approved, it is even more imperative to resolve these safety issues. Councillor Roberts suggested the Council move forward to seeking funding to extend the road and to approach Francis Flowers about assistance with the funding. The Council agreed to this approach.

Sally Tees-Prior and Joanne Paddock attended the meeting to ask the Council if it would support a Music Festival on the Recreation ground and allow use of the land. The Festival would raise money for local charities, welcome children, be staffed properly and be held over a weekend in August 2017. The Council confirmed that although it would not agree to camping on the Recreation Ground, it was in broad agreement pursuant to obtaining the correct licenses.

Kier Petherick gave an informative talk to the Councillors about the proposed Tomato Glasshouses which is to be considered under Planning. The development would employ around 100 people and any light coming from the glasshouses would be blanked out at night to stop light pollution. The Council questioned how many trucks would be involved with the production of the tomato's and Mr Petherick confirmed it would be around 10 daily which would only use the A10 and not come through Stretham on the A1123.

Allen Norman attended the meeting to discuss a possible housing development on the site of the old Transport Yard on Newmarket Road. A question was put forward that the owners be asked if they would consider working alongside Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust and Mr Allen confirmed he would pose this question. Although the Council would like to see this area improved due to being such an eye sore, there are serious concerns about the contamination of the land which used to be a landfill site.

6. To review results of the Parish Rooms Survey and agree next steps
Councillor Parish provided a detaled breakdown of the results from the Parish Rooms survey which was circulated with the newsletter earlier in 2016. The results quite clearly show that the building requires serious improvement or to be rebuilt in a more suitable area of Stretham. To enable the Council to be in a position to apply for funding for such a project, more detailed consultation will be necessary with the community. The Councillors all agreed that it would be preferable to build a new community building in a better location with more parking room and that this is the preferred plan over the next 5 years. Councillor Parish sought permission to move forward at this point in time with some further more direct consultation and this was agreed. Councillor Parish also proposed to ring fence any Community Infrastructure Levy money being paid to Stretham Parish Council in the next 5 years with an annual review in case priorities change. Any CIL money will be put to this project to build a better community facility, likely in a new location. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Taylor and following a unanimous vote, it was resolved that the CIL money be ring fenced from this date forward.

- 16/00660/ESF – Land off Ely Road, Chittering – Four glasshouses. Following the discussions within Public Consultation, this application was carefully considered. Correspondence from residents living close to the proposed site was read out, mainly with concerns around traffic and location. Councillor Speed put forward that the development would bring jobs to the village, will be based on agricultural farmland and be growing UK produce and proposed that the Council support this application. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Parish and following a unanimous vote, it was resolved to support this planning application.

16/00674/FUL –Morning Meadow, Grunty Fen – Replacement three bedroom detached Dwelling. Stretham Parish Council is consulted on this application as a neighbouring parish. The Council raised serious concerns that yet again this planning application relates to development outside of the envelope. The Council agreed it is an unsuitable location and

on wet, low lying land. It was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Speed to submit this response, all Councillors in agreement.

Letter from Ely Design Group regarding proposed development on Newmarket Road
The Council would be pleased to see the old transport yard site re-developed as it is such an eye sore on entry into the village from Wicken. The Council has no objection to the site becoming residential dependent on design of the housing. The Council drew attention to the fact that the site used to be a rubbish dump and is classed as contaminated land which may be a major hurdle to overcome. The Council will obviously respond formally at the time that a planning application comes forward for this site.

9. To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. SWCLT has unfortunately experienced further Clerking issues at a very crucial time. The first three houses are due for handover early in September and some borrowing may be necessary. The site is developing very well and there is a good level of interest in the properties, especially for rental. Councillor Roberts has approached the Parish Clerk, Rachel Watts, about taking back on the role of Clerk to SWCLT to give SWCLT some stability at this crucial time. The Clerk would need support with the Parish role to continue to provide the level of service provided and to take forward the major projects coming forward. Councillor Roberts sought agreement from the Council to employ an Assistant Parish Clerk so that Rachel has support with major projects and can slowly reduce her hours as the Assistant becomes competent to take forward SWCLT. Councillor Nuttall stated that as long as the current level of service is maintained, he is supportive of the addition of an Assistant Parish Clerk. The Clerk explained that a number of villages now have an Assistant Parish Clerk and that in no way would the level of service decline with these changes. The Council agreed in principle to this proposal and asked the Finance, Personnel and Governance Sub-Committee to take this forward. Proposed by Councillor Speed, seconded by Councillor Nuttall, all Councillors in favour.

2016 08 02 PC
To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. Rachel Watts has now taken on the Clerk role and is in the process of making contact with those definitely interested in the shared ownership properties. The first three houses are due for handover in September. Good progress is also being made with the next batch of 5 houses due for completion early in 2017.

The Clerk put forward a query from Jo Andow who runs the new Slimming World group at the Pavilion. Jo would like to put a banner up in the village advertising the group. After discussion, it was agreed that the banner can be erected on the verge outside the Pavilion car park but only whilst the group is in session and not permanently.

A question about a joint Remembrance Sunday arrangements with St James' Church was raised and it was agreed that both memorials should be covered on the day.

13. To receive the Minutes of the Finance, Governance and Personnel Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 11th July 2016 and ratify the decisions made
The Minutes of both the open and closed sections of the meeting were circulated. Councillor Nuttall raised one missing item relating to the running of a separate budget for the Pavilion Nursery. This would be managed by Councillor Nuttall. Aside from this, Councillor Bright proposed to accept all the decisions taken at the meeting and this was seconded by Councillor Pearce. The Council therefore ratified the decisions.

2016 08 04 p6
John Froggett, 24 killed in a serious accident on the A10 near Stretham

2016 09 06 PC
The new Assistant Parish Clerk, Mary Hook, was given a warm welcome to the meeting.

The Councillors received a full update on tasks completed since the last meeting. The first quote to extend the fencing at the All Weather Pitch to stop balls flying into the Bowls Club has come in well over £1000. The Clerk was asked to look into other options

6. To discuss recent vandalism at at Topsy and Tim Play Area
Around the middle of August, one of the brand new swings at the play area was vandalised and broken from the chain. It is now not usable. A child has been named as the alleged person responsible for the damage. The Clerk has reported this via email to the local PCSO, Jonathan Hall and he advised to report this incident on 101. The Clerk sought clarification if the Council would like this to happen. The Council agreed that this should be reported formally. The Council also agreed that a letter to the child's parents should be sent once a quotation has been received for the repair and the cost should be charged to the child's parents.
Aside from this, a boot scrapper has been installed twice at this All Weather Pitch and been yanked out and twice and on the second time, was damaged beyond repair.
The Council was extremely disappointed to hear that such occurrences are happening and all agreed a zero tolerance approach to handing these situations should be taken.
Councillor Murfitt reported that a large number of people are gathering at the All Weather Pitch on a Sunday evening and that rubbish is being left around. The Clerk agreed to raise awareness of this to the PCSO.

10. To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
The Clerk provided a full update to the Council in her capacity as Clerk to SWCLT. All progressing very well and the first 3 houses should be ready early October. It is likely that two of the three houses will go to shared ownership.

Councillor Parish raised the issue that the map of the village is out of date. The Clerk explained that without a Mapping Tool, it was practically impossible to create an up to date map. The Assistant Clerk will look into the cost of Mapping packages.

2016 09 07
Two men suffer burns in village oil tank explosion, Reads Street … loud bang and big flames, air ambulance lands in field, Berry Green. Photos. 2016 09 07 CN

2016 10 04 PC
Concerns were raised from various members of the public regarding the use of Short Road as a short-cut avoiding the roundabout at heavy traffic times; namely early in the morning until approximately 8.30am and again between 3.30pm and 6pm. Residents have indicated that there is a large volume of traffic, including coaches and heavy goods vehicles, driving in a fast and dangerous manner. It was felt that there were various options available that the public wished the Council to consider. Those mentioned were blocking off one end of Short Road, having a barrier entry installed, limiting speed to 20mph, having no right- turn from Cambridge Road onto Short Road, using happy/ sad electronic signage or having traffic calming in the form of 'mounds' installed. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk had already met with representatives of County Council Highways department to discuss the various options open to the Council. The guidance of the Highways department was that having cars parked on the side of the road created a natural traffic calming, this is the case along Short Road. The road is not wide enough to install humps which go from one side to the other, the road is only 5m wide and advice is that a width of 5½m is required. There would also be problems with drainage is the road were to be widened. Pillows were possibly an option, however at least five sets would be needed and there may well be problems with installing them as they have to be a set distance from driveway openings. Highways were also

mindful of the fact that there would be noise from vehicles when they drove over the pillows. There have been historical instances of pillows being removed as they have proved un-popular with residents. Councillor Roberts explained that Stretham had many traffic issues, including that of speeding through the entire village and that it has always been the view of the Council that traffic calming should not be introduced and that the Public should play a part in being responsible for their actions.

11. To consider the purchase of QuickBooks accounting package
The Clerk explained to the Council that the Assistant Clerk has full knowledge of QuickBooks and would like to use this software for the Council's accounts. A sum for the purchase of QuickBooks was agreed up to £500 and the Finance Sub- Committee was asked to look into this in more detail. The expenditure was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Bright.

14. To receive an update on the progress of SWCLT
All is progressing well. The first three houses should be handed over by the end of October. The first hand-over is imminent with the house being allocated on a shared ownership basis to a local family (from Stretham with a young child). Three more properties should be ready by the end of February 2017. Two properties are two bedroom houses for shared- ownership and the third is a three bedroom house for rental. The allocations committee are due to meet regarding the third property. Fourteen private houses have been sold on the development.
A welcome pack is being produced by Stretham Youth Centre with support from Laragh Homes and Stretham Parish Council. SWCLT is planning a Launch Event which is likely to be in early January 2017.

A letter was received from Highways concerning the encroachment of land near the garage. It confirmed that as far as they are concerned it does not affect the highway. It was agreed that the Clerk will refer back to County for clarification as to why the Parish Council should pay the legal fees in this connection.Proposed by Cllr. Parish and seconded by Councillor Previtt.

2016 11 01 PC
There were members of the public present to support the planning application for an outbuilding at 17 Short Road, Stretham to be built for use as a beauty salon. The Clerk had received three emails concerning this matter, two in support of the application and one raising objections. The owner of the property at Short Road briefly explained the proposals. The main concerns raised by the Council were that the building should remain solely for the use of 17 Short Road and should not be sold as a separate entity at any point in the future. Secondly, the height of the building was given some consideration. It was generally felt that as many of the surrounding buildings are bungalows, this may stand out. Positive points raised were concerning the parking, with the proprietor being able to provide off- road parking for her clients. With the issues raised on speeding and general road usage in the Short Road area it was felt that this would be beneficial. The Parish Council also felt that small businesses should be encouraged to trade and thrive within the village.
To receive an update from the SWCLT.
The first of the three properties that are ready will be allocated on a shared ownership basis. The first house allocated is to Laura Farley and family. It is a three- bedroomed property. The second house will be rented. One letter has been received from Peggy Lamb raising concerns over the Doctor's Surgery. The SWCLT has plans approved to build the surgery, however, there is a lot of NHS re- tape. Every effort is being made for this to go ahead. The Parish Council fully support both the building of a new surgery and the efforts being made by SWCLT.
Finally, there are two more properties to be allocated, one after Christmas and one in 2017.

2016 12 06 PC
Steven Smith attended from Speedwatch. Steven thanked and proceed to tell the Council about the benefits of having a Speedwatch scheme on the village and that by having teams out once a month at different locations, the perception over time is that traffic does slow down and in time it becomes

a very effective scheme. Once the data of speeding vehicles has been collected and put into the Police system and the offender is contacted via letter, the first letter received is a warning, the second is a stronger warning and the third letter is taken in person by the police. Only speeds of 36 mph and over are sent to the police. Steven advised that once Volunteers have been sort, he can provide the training that is required. He also has the flexibility to loan the Speedwatch equipment until the Council decided if they would like to purchase some equipment, the cost of this is around £3000. When asked about the lasting impact of the scheme Steven said that fixed signs can be put up saying the Scheme runs in the village. Councillor Prevett said he had a few volunteers and it was agreed to put it into the newsletter to gather more support and that the scheme would go ahead in January, with Councillor Prevett working with Speedwatch to set it up.

To discuss with Stretham Sporting Football Club various issues. Representatives attended from Stretham Sporting. They firstly thanked the Council for getting the flood lights fixed and stated that only a few training sessions had to be cancelled. They enquired as to whether the floodlight lamps would be replaced by LED as these are longer lasting, the Council agreed this would be considered in the summer. SSRC asked to be kepted informed of the progress. Lack of parking space on match days has again caused issues. SSRC said they have asked all away teams to be mindful of their parking, where possible to lift share and not to block peoples drives. The blue paint covering the front of the Pavilion was discussed. SSRC said there was nowhere else to clean the line painting machine and asked if at their own cost could a drain be placed next to the outside tap for them to wash the paint away. The council agreed to this but asked that they make sure the paint was safe to flush down the drain. It was also agreed that if the building was to ever be used for any other purpose that a drain would be put it. SSRC are to clean up the blue paint that is currently covering the front of the Pavillion asap and to submit a plan to the council, as to where they plan to put the drain. SSRC got funding for their new goals, they now need somewhere to hold them so they can insure them. It was agreed that SSRC could put up a 6ft enclosure using wooden posts and chain-link fence. Councillor Taylor asked that there be enough room in the enclosure for the adult goals. The council asked to see some drawings of the proposed enclosure before it is erected.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. It is hoped that the first houses will be taken passion of before Christmas. The highways issues have now been resolved. Out of the first three houses allocated, 1 is to be rented and the other two are shared ownership. 1 of the shared owner ship houses has tenants but they are currently still looking to occupy the third.

Rachel Watts and Councillor Parish have been to the cemetery and look at the size of the size of the plots for interment of ashes, Rachel is currently putting this together. It has been agreed that these plots will be half the size of a burial plot. Guidelines are to be drawn up for undertakers in connection with the new section of the cemetery to be used for internment of ashes. Fees are to be half those of a standard burial plot. It was agreed that we should consider record management and storage for important items such as burial books. Parish clerk to ask Maureen for the where bouts of the award map.

Eleanor’s Field Sub Committee
Councillor Parish asked for a quote for a kissing gate to be put in at Eleanor’s field. When the gardening contract goes out for tender in the spring, this should also be included, it will require flailing and a footpath maintain around the edge.

Councillor Nutall asked about progress with the proposed Nursery. Heads of terms have now been provided to the solicitor. They have however asked for more paperwork form the original handover, this is currently being located. As this has taken such a long time to progress the solicitor will be told we are going to seek alternative representation if this cannot be progressed.

-o-o-2017-o-o-
2017 01 03 PC

The Pavilion required a new padlock as the previous one has disappeared and we had reports of drug dealing taking place in the car park. A new lock has been fitted to the changing room door of the Pavilion, the kitchen tap repaired and the toilet waste pipe fitted. It was reported that it looks like somebody has tried to force the main door to the pavilion, there is minimal damage

Comments received back regarding the A10 Traffic Island and Top street parking. The A10 traffic island has been there for years and drivers have no excuse but their own failings if they hit them, there are bollards and lining on the road to alert drivers they are there. Granted that the bollards can get damaged and the lines fade but the carriageway is wide enough to accommodate all vehicles on both sides of them. The road gets inspected every month so any damage or hazard there would be picked up by the inspector. With funding as it is repairs would not be done on things such as chipped kerbs unless they were loose or causing a hazard, however over the Christmas period the bollards were wiped out in an RTC. They have been made safe and await repair.

To receive information from the public with refence to planning submitted for Fieldside
The public stated that they would like to object to this planning for the following reasons;

- The proposed building of a 5-bedroom house is felt to be out of keeping in the surrounding area.
- There is an access issues
- The previous issues raised when planning was put in have not been addressed
- It is a flood risk as there is no soak away and the ditch normally floods
- Fieldside is an un-adopted road and in poor condition
- The sewage system could not cope with the extra houses

The assistant clerk showed to the council the pieces of play equipment that had been suggested for the play area. The Council decided that the items suggested were not suitable and not what was required. The Council agreed to look at this again in Jan 2018 with regards to a complete overhaul of the area.

Councillor Roberts informed the Council that Laragh Homes are proposing a new play area be built at Manor Farm. It was generally felt that another play area is not needed in the village and that the Parish Council would incur ongoing upkeep costs. It was agreed that the Recreation Sub – Committee should meet with Laragh Homes and discuss funding for the modifying of Short Road play area instead.

To discuss the quote received for the Joinery at the Cemetery
The Cemetery shed requires work on the sliding doors and the gothic windows. The quote received for works comes to £3000. The Parish Clerk is to see if we can get any alternative quotes for this work and to contact Emma Grimmer to see if the CIL money can be used for this project and to find out if there are any grants available for this type of work. The shed provides storage for village equipment.

To agree the Precept for 2017
The Council agreed to keep the Precept the same as last year £64,000, this means there will be no rise in council tax. Proposed by Councillor Speed and second by Councillor Thake

16/01685/FUL – The Council objected to the planning for the following reasons. The five-bedroom house wold not be in keeping with the area. Causing an adverse effect on the landscape. Drainage/Sewers – There is already considerable issues with the drainage and sewerage pipes in this area of Stretham. The pipes in Fieldside and Green End frequently overflow with moderate rainfall causing foul water and sewerage to come to the surface. Anglian Water regularly have to clean the drains out in this area identifying that there is quite clearly a problem with capacity. There is an open drain that runs alongside the track to Meadow Farm which would require enforcing. Access – Fieldside is an un-adopted highway and it is in a terrible condition. It is understood the highway has no intention of adopting this road. The access to Meadow farm is narrow and opposite a driveway,

this raises concerns about the number of vehicles using the junction onto Fieldside daily. The Council would ask that this application go for full planning. Councillor Nutall would like to Abstained from voting. All other Councillors objected to this planning.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
The first properties are set to be handed over on the 15th January, with the next 3 to be allocated around the end of February / beginning of March. Some of the private houses are now occupied. There is to be a meeting of the CLT to be held on the 12 of January. The doctor's surgery is still being discussed, it was due to be built with Phase 2 but has now been moved back to Phase 3. The CCG need to approve the plans for this and it must fit with the NHS policy. The Welcome pack is currently in draft form and awaiting the village map to be finalised

Middle Drove Common
Karen Champion has recently inspected Middle Drove Common. All being well with 17/18 budget they will do some work on the drove to repair the dips and hollows that hold water and lead to a downward spiral in its condition. The access to fields will always mean that tractors use the route, and they are right to spread the inevitable damage across the whole of the track, there is no special verge area on a byway. The work will need to be carried out hen ground conditions are drier, hopefully around May and doing the work will inevitably mean that conditions will be less pleasant for a while whilst the work settles. If the work goes ahead, IDB will let the rate payers know what they are trying to achieve as the tractors drivers will be safer without the low spots.

Parish Rooms hire
A request has been made by the Yoga group who use the Parish Rooms on a Saturday. They currently have been paying a trial price for hire of £12.50 a session, this is now due to increase to the normal rate of £15. The yoga group have asked if they could pay £8 a session. The Council agreed that this was not enough and that the normal £15 would need to be paid as that is the price all the other groups pay.

Coucillor Roberts asked if a request could be put into the next newsletter asking if anyone had any interesting local stories or photos they would like to share.

2017 01 12 p50
Demolition of the existing dwelling, garage and outbuilding at Meadow Farm, Fieldside

2017 02 07 PC
Laragh Homes have been in contact and the following street names have been applied for, Poachers Way and Dockey Court.

The public would like to object to the outline planning application on Fieldside due to the following reasons. The access is very narrow, nothing in the plans has addressed this issue. The character of the houses are not in keeping, they are two storey bungalows so would still be higher than the current dwellings. The un-adopted road is not very well kept, and heavy vehicles using the road would cause even more damage. There would be an issue with additional cars coming in and out of Fieldside and additional cars parking.

District Council
A scheme to buy/sell play parks is in operation. The Topsy and Tim Park was sold to the village for £5, if it stays a play park, if the village decide that they no longer want it then the Council would buy it back

To consider planning applications

16/01766/FUL – Land adjacent to 16 Fieldside, Stretham, Ely, Cambs. The Council felt that the two Storey buildings would affect the view of the country side. The drains are not able to cope with the extra houses. The site is bigger than the original outline planning. There is a concern about the access along with extra parking and cars visiting. It is an over development of the site. Proposed to object to planning by Councillor Parish, second by Councillor Thake. The whole council objected to the planning.

17/00103/OUT – Outline application. It will cause an increase in traffic along Short road, the access in and out of the site is very narrow and there is already additional traffic from the business as well as from the houses. The site will be over developed. Objection proposed by Councillor Speed and second by Councillor Parish. The whole Council objected to this planning.

16/01811/FUL – Former Haulage Yard, Newmarket Road, Stretham. The council have no issue with the improvement of the site, however they do have grave concerns of developing on a landfill site and would worry about the radon gas issues. Objection to the building was made by Councillor Pearce and second by Councillor Thake. The whole Council objected to this planning.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT.
The first two houses will be occupied in February. The finance has been approved from the charity bank. There will be an official opening in March, where Gavin Barwell the housing minister will open the site

Councilor Parish has looked at Mr Penny's Timesheets, it was felt that charging half an hour to put bins out was very high and that the contract needs to be looked and a cap put on hours and anything else needs to be approved by the Clerk. Councilor Parish and The Clerk to work together to look at the contract and bring to the next meeting.

Councillor Nuttall ask about the progress of the nursery proposal. Councillor Roberts explained that he and the Clerk had met With Emma Grima from East Cambs to see if they could manage the project on behalf of the Council and that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

2017 03 07 PC
To receive an update on the Nursery proposal
A meeting has taken place with East Cambs District Council to see if we could get assistance with project managing the proposal and to discuss the legal side of the proposal. It was asked that a meeting be set up between Councillors and East Cambs to discuss concerns and questions that the council have

To discuss the new job description for the Caretaker
The job description for the Caretaker has been reviewed, amending some tasks currently undertaken. It was felt by the Council that the position should have monthly capped hours, with additional work to be approved by the Parish Clerk. There was quite a lot of cleaning tasks that are being undertaken after bookings, this needs to be addressed as our contracts clearly state that the rooms should be left in the state they are found and therefore not the job of the Caretaker to clean up after each booking.

To receive planning application decisions
16/01685/FUL – Meadow Farm, Fieldside, Stretham – Approved

2017 03 09
A moment of calm; Kate Sadler's latest interior design project – a blank canvas new build in Stretham – is cosy and effortlessly elegant: Manor Farm Estate showhouse 2017 03 09

2017 04 03 PC
Jacky and I attended a meeting with Laragh Homes. The play park and green spaces of Manor Farm, once they are complete will be handed over to the CLT to maintain. All houses on the site will pay a fee to cover these costs.

Some members of the public came to comment on planning application 17/00103/OUT 17 Short road Stretham. It was commented that although the planning had been scaled back it was still an over development of the site. They felt the noise from the extra traffic would create an issue for surrounding dwellings and were worried about the extra traffic from the Salon as well as the traffic from the proposed houses. It was suggested that if this planning is granted then ''where would it end'' as there is other land that could be developed on the site and felt that this was a slippery slope. The members of public also commented on the loss of habit for wildlife.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
The Grand opening will take place on the 11th May at 2pm with the whole Council being invited to attended

An email was received from the organisers of Stretham Fest, asking if the dates could be changed to the 18th, 19th and 20th of August. The Council asked the Clerk to make contact to clarify the following points and to ask them to attend the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss a few concerns.
1) Has an event notice and license been sort from East Cambs District Council?
2) What would they like to use the Pavilion for?
3) What part of the recreation ground will they be using and will any of it be fenced off?
4) What consultation has taken place with residents of Short Road, Cambridge Road and Wilburton Road?
5) What are the Camping plans?
6) What toilet facilities will be in place?

There have been reports of flooding down Green End after heavy rain. The run offs have all been squashed by the lorries that reverse up and down. The crash barrier has also been hit and is now pushed right back. The Clerk to speak to Pam at the Highways Department to see if a sign could go up warning that Green End is not suitable for HGV access and to see if the Crash Barrier can be repaired.

2017 05 02 PC
The signs have gone up asking tractors and lorries to slow down. With regards to the encroachment on Short Road from a highway point of view there is no real issue that affects the highway use. All they will do is write to the garage and let them know they are aware of the encroachment but will take no further action, at this time. However, if in the future, they needed to reclaim that section of land for highway purposes they would be in their rights to do so. Alternatively, they could apply for Stopping up order to purchase the extent of encroachment. Highways are going to look at the crash barrier down green end and the soak away's and asses them. Pam is also going to look at what the criteria is for putting up a sign warning of the narrow road. The internal auditor has been to look over the end of year accounts. I have also been working on the preparing for the Feast.

To agree the next steps to the nursery proposal
Councillor Nuttall proposed the following action with regards to the proposal.
The Finance Sub-Committee is hereby authorised and requested by the Parish Council to progress the proposal to extend the Pavilion into a building suitable for use as a Nursery and to lease this on commercial terms, subject to a suitable commercial agreement and financial proposal.
The Sub-Committee will report back to the Council monthly until completion of the project in an agenda standing item. If at any time, the Sub-Committee considers that the proposal should not proceed, it will raise this at the next Council meeting for consideration.

The Sub-Committee will have due regard to the potential risks to the financial position of the Council and will monitor and mitigate risks where possible.
The Sub-Committee will seek approval at full Council meetings at key points in the project as highlighted below in bold.
The Sub-Committee is authorised to commit up to £10,000 of expenditure in respect of costs related to the project before the signature of the lease. Expenditure above this will require additional approval from full Council.
Key project milestones
Items in bold below will be brought to full Council for approval before action.

- Drafting of Heads of Terms
- Signature to Heads of Terms
- Revised Architect plan
- Builder's quotation
- Outline planning advice (if required)
- Planning Permission
- Presentation to Council to approve
- o Project Plan
- o Lease to Nursery company
- o Financial Proposal (including mortgage if required)
- Builder's Contract
- Architect's Contract
- Project Manager agreement (if required)
- Other supplier contracts as needed
- Start of work
- First Fix
- Practical Completion & handover – rental period starts
- Opening

The above action was proposed by Councillor Speed and seconded by Councillor Taylor, the council all voted for this action except for Councillor Pearce who abstained.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Councillor Roberts provided an update on the CLT. 3 houses have now been handed over with 2 occupied and 1 still available. There will be 5 from phase 3, which will be waiting for tenants. The finance has come through from the Charity bank this has been a long drawn out processes, the official launch has been put back due to the snap election.

2017 05 25 p8
Similar to the one that has been built at Stretham. But Cambridge city council paid

2017 05 31
Wave of funding helps more wakeboarders take to the water. Hannam's Wake Hub got £85,320 from ACRE and the Cambridgeshire Fens Leader which set up to help businesses reach their potential. It has allowed Hannam's Wake Hub to install a new fiver-tower cable. Hub began in 2012 with a two-tower cable. Mayor James Palmer officially opened the season. Jess Hannam runs the business … contacted a farmer who wanted to diversify the use of their land. 2017 03 31CI

2017 05 31
Cutting library newspapers is akin to throwing away our city's history: article by Mike Petty reflecting on importance of local newspapers in the Cambridgeshire Collection. 2017 05 31a CI

2017 06 06 PC
To approve the SSRC accounts
The SSRC accounts were approved. This was proposed by Councillor Thake and seconded by Councillor Nuttall.

It was noted from the audit report that the SSRC is still heavily reliant on the Parish Council contributions to run, and that the maintenance of separate accounts is a continuing burden in effort and cost to the Council, with no benefit to either the Council or the SSRC.
It was agreed that a meeting of the SSRC should be called where the members of the SSRC (who are the Parish Councillors) be asked to consider dissolution of the SSRC. The Council has previously sought other trustees to take over the running of the SSRC, but no parties have ever come forward as potential trustees of the SSRC. Councillor Nuttall agreed to put together an agreement to be considered by both the Council and the SSRC at the meeting, all Councillors agreed to this approach. The clerk will put a notice on the Parish Notice Board advising the community of the proposed meeting and all clubs who are regular users of the Pavilion will be contacted to allow everyone the chance to air their views.

To discuss advertising potential of the village newsletter
It was felt by the council that they did not want to turn the Newsletter into pages of adverts and keep it to village news. However, the council felt it was worth writing to some local businesses to see if we could get some paid advertising.

To approve the netting for the top of the All-Weather Pitch
The clerk reported that she could not find anyone else who was willing to fit the net to the top of the All – Weather Pitch, therefore the council would go ahead with the quote from Odd jobs 247. The council asked that the top of the middle of the net be raised to stop the net sagging. A sign is also to be erected to say the council will not take liability for anyone who climbs on to the top of the net. This action was proposed by Councillor Thake and seconded by Councillor Pearce.

16/01811/FUL – Transport yard on Wicken Road - The Council had no attention points to note regarding this planning. And again, stated they would like to see development of this site but do question if it is safe to build on an old landfill site. This was proposed by Councillor Pearce and seconded by Councillor Previtt.

To receive an update on the Nursery project
Following on from the legal advice that has been sought, the solicitor has advised that it would be legally complex for the development and lease of the Pavilion to be able to progress while the lease of the Pavilion to the SSRC is in place. The Council felt that, with the potential cost and difficulty of progressing the Nursery project while the lease is in place and the ongoing cost and burden of maintaining the separate SSRC accounts, the SSRC should be asked to consider dissolving, as discussed in item 7 above.

2017 06 26
Bespoke developer celebrates milestone. Laragh Homes established in 2007 … forged exceptionally strong relationships with number of investment partners … It has also been at the forefront of development based on a combination of public and private funding such as Manor Farm, Stretham, which includes landowner Peterhouse and the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust, which will own the properties and manage them going forward. Managing Director said “I am particularly proud of our work as part of the consortium bringing the Manor Farm project to fruition … it is our largest development, at 75 properties. Charles Roberts, Chairman of Stretham and Wilburton CLT and leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council said: “It’s an absolute pleasure to celebrate with Laragh. In terms of the Manor Farm development, what we have got is exactly as agreed at the start … the appetite to do something different to the norm and the commitment from the whole Laragh team has been really impressive” 2017 06 26 CN

2017 07 04 PC
Meeting adjourned for SSRC meeting. SSRC was formed to look after the recreation ground and to supply sporting facilities for the village. The Council gain some income from rent of the pitches and the pavilion but this does not in any way cover the cost of the SSRC. The Parish Council has to make significant contributions every couple of months to cover the running costs. After advertising

this meeting and informing the local sports clubs, no one has come forward to take over the trusteeship of the SSRC. After a lengthy discussion, the SSRC trustees felt that the only conceivable way forward would be to dissolve the SSRC. This action was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Pearce, the whole Council agreed. Now the SSRC has been dissolved the Council will close the bank account and notify the Charity Commission. The Clerk to look through the paper work to find the SSRC accounts and see what the building was valued at when first built, in reparation for the Charity Commission.

The Clerk explained to the Council that when a Councillor is going to be absence from a meeting they must inform the Clerk that they are not going to be at the meeting, they must also provide a reason for their absence which the Council must approve. If no explanation is provided or the Council do not accept this reason the absence will be classed as unauthorised.

To consider the Parish Community Room. The Council agreed that we should start to look for sites around the village and find out the cost of land, before we move this project forward.

To discuss Mepal Football Club using the adults football pitch next season
Mepal is unable to use their pitch next season and have asked f they could hire Stretham on a Saturday afternoon. Councillor Taylor advised that there is not currently an adult team on a Saturday so the pitch is free. The Council agreed that they could hire the pitch at a cost of £300 a season, Mepal would have to speak with Lee Taylor in regard to a contribution towards line painting and using the equipment.

16/01811/FUL – Former haulage Yard, Newmarket Road, Stretham – Refused

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. 3 more houses have been received with 6 in total and all are now occupied. 2 further properties to come across soon, a 3-bedroom house and a 2-bedroom bungalow, the hose has been allocated but the bungalow has not. Phase 2 has now started and the first house is due to be handed over at the end of the year. The SWCLT are currently in talks with the NHS regarding the new doctor's surgery and how this can be moved forward. The Clerk to speak to the site manager regarding the cemetery path.

To receive an update on the Nursery Project
The solicitor is currently drawing up the HoT, we need clarification of the lease to move this forward. The HoT should be ready to present at the next Council meeting.

2017 07 11 p2
On projects including the development at Manor Farm, Stretham which involves a public-private partnership

2017 08 01 PC
Susanna Rippingale was in attendance to discuss the proposed Nursery project. After submitting a document to the Council regarding the Nursery requirements, she came to see if the Council had any questions. The Council advised Susanna that they would not be happy putting a high fence around the whole of the Pavilion. However, a lower fence would be considered. The Council had no further questions.

To review the Heads of Terms for the nursery Project
The Finance sub-committee gave feedback to the Council on a meeting with Sally Bonnett of East Cambs (who will project manage the Refurbishment for the Nursery). The Finance sub-committee has received and reviewed 2 quotes from architects to cover the Refurbishment. It was agreed that the total budget for the refurbishment should be increased to £170,000 to include architect's fees, given the current low interest rates available but that this should be a maximum budget for the Rental amount already agreed. The Council will be going to the Public Works Loan Board for the

mortgage. The Rent will still provide a reasonable return on the refurbishment costs. The draft Heads of Terms were reviewed and minor changes for clarification were suggested. It was noted that, at this point the risk to the Parish Council would be the total Architects fees in the case that the project does not proceed. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Bright that the Finance sub-committee are authorised to execute the Head of Terms with the changes noted once they are ready for signature and to instruct architects.Actions:
Councillor Nuttall to update Heads of Terms and letter to Rippingales.
Clerk to contact the public works loan board to start discussion of mortgage.

To sign the paperwork to close the SSRC account
It was agreed at the last Council meeting to dissolve the SSRC. All bank forms were signed to close the SSRC bank account. Councillor Nuttall to register the dissolution with the Charity Commission Website.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
6 houses are now occupied. 8 from phase 1 transferred, the only one not yet occupied is a 2 bed bungalow. SWCLT would be very interested in hearing from people who are interested in the houses. There is to be a meeting held in August to discuss moving the CLT doctor surgery forward. This has been a very challenging process but hope to make some progress soon.

2017 09 05 PC
To Discuss the vandalism to the defibrillator
Part of the defibrillator has been stolen and some wires pulled out from the actual machine. The Council discussed getting a defibrillator that is locked in a box, if it needs to be used you dial 999 give the code and they will then give the caller the keypad code to unlock the box. The Clerk to find out if there is funding available to help purchase a new defibrillator.

17/01272/FUM – Lazy Otter – Proposed extension to Lazy Otter Meadows Caravan Park to allow for the siting of 34 static holiday/lodges together with environmental improvements – The Council would like to object to this planning for the following reasons, Access to the site, the adverse effect on the local landscape, no contribution to the already stretched resources of the village such as doctors etc. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Bright with the whole Council in agreement.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
All the houses that have been handed over are now all allocated, just waiting on acceptance of the last bungalow. Next to come over are 4 x 2-bedroom houses hopefully in January and then in May 4 more 1-bedroom bungalows.

To receive an update on the Nursery Project
The HoT have now been updated and sent over o the Rippingales to sign, the Clerk to chase this up. The draft lease has also now been drawn up, and Councillor Nuttall has registered the dissolution of the SSRC with the charity commission.

2017 10 03 PC
To discuss the Community Room project
The Amenities working party met to discuss the location and would like to formally propose to the Council that we approach Stretham Charities to see if some of the allotment land could be used for the New Community room. This was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Saunt with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor Parish put forward the quote from James Baderley to project manage the Community room project, the Council felt that there would be tasks that need completing that Councillors do not have the time or expertise to do and so James would be an asset in assisting with this process. This

was proposed by Councillor Pearce and seconded by Councillor Thake the rest of the Council agreed with Councillor Taylor abstaining from voting.

17/01560/FUM – Change of use of paddock to 10 pitches for traveller families. Land at E550177 N277983 Pools Road Wilburton. The Council made the same comments as the last time this planning was submitted. The site is not located near any amenities and therefore, car journeys would have to be made, also there is no footpath due to the location and the Grunty Fen road is not the best read to be walking along so this poses a danger to the pedestrians and drivers. The proposed site would be out of keeping within the countryside and overall appearance of the countryside would be compromised

To receive an update on the Nursery Project
The Heads of Terms have now been signed by the Rippingales and the Council, the company that intends to operate the Nursery has been registered by the Rippingales as Stretham Pavilion Day Nursery Ltd. Two codes have been set up in the Councils accounts for costs and income relating to this project. A meeting has been arranged with Sally Bonnet on Friday to discuss next steps.

2017 10 16 p10
William Richard Dick Gill passed away tragically

2017 10 31 p13
In the spirit of Hallowe'en: Cambridge Ghost Hunters investigate haunted places; includes Stretham Old Engine. Mr Jones said in their engine room there's something 2017 10 31 CN

2017 11 07 PC
Objections to proposed development at 8B Wilburton Road & 14 Brook Lane

SSRC. Next four houses to be handed over in December, allocated to local people. Phase three to start soon, Meeting with NHS re doctor's surgery

Update on nursery project: three quotes provided

Community Room: have written to Charities re allotment land to see if could rent some for the project. Charity look into legality and would like community survey to ensure there is a need

Resident objects 8b Wilburton Road
Resident objects 14 Brook Lane

SSRC
Next four houses due hand over December, meeting with NHS re surgery

Nursery Project:
Request formal survey, accept middle quote

Community Room project
Chjarity to investigate legality

2017 11 09
A new deputy mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been appointed following the resignation of Huntingdonshire's Robin Howe. The county's combined authority announced on Wednesday that Councillor Charles Roberts was to become the new deputy mayor, just days after Councillor Howe announced he was standing down. Cllr Howe who represents Upwood and the Raveleys, said his resignation was a "private matter" and was not prepared to expand on his reasons for leaving the cabinet. He said he would continue to serve as a district councillor and was considering standing for election again next year but had not made up his mind whether to do so.

Cllr Roberts, currently leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, was selected by the mayor, James Palmer. Mr Palmer said: “Charles served as my deputy during my time as leader at East Cambridgeshire District Council so I’m fully aware of his talents and record of delivery. “We worked extremely well together as leader and deputy and I am hopeful that we will be able to build upon this record of achievement to deliver for the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Whilst sad to see Robin Howe leave the cabinet, I’m extremely confident about what the new cabinet can achieve working together over the next three and a half years.”
Cllr Roberts added: “It’s a great honour to have been chosen to be the new deputy mayor. Like the mayor, I was born and have lived my entire life in the county. I’m extremely proud of our area and its huge potential for the future. “As the leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council I will continue to be fully focused on delivering for all residents across the district. However, in addition to this, I welcome the opportunity to play a key role in supporting the mayor as he seeks to turn his ambitious and visionary plans for the entirety of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough into reality.” Ely Standard

2017 12 05 PC
To receive a presentation from Gary Johns on the Nursery Project
After reviewing the original plans, the architect felt that the current budget that has been set would not cover the current plans. Therefore, Gary produced some amended plans to try and bring the cost down. They looked at trying to make the most of the existing space that is there. The front space would be widened rather than build out into the car park. The toddler room will take in some of the existing hall that is in place and a foldable partition put down the middle to split it into the two rooms, this would then make it a more versatile space. The reception area has been made smaller and the office has been moved to the back of the building. One option presented would be to convert two of the existing toilets to be suitable for children, leaving one for adults. Due to Ofsted requirements the toilets may have to be looked at again. The kitchen will have to be considered as there will need to be a tea point and a kitchen for food prep for the children. A meeting to be set up to present the new plans to the Nursery provider and to progress the designs to the stage that we can seek cost estimates and a quotation from a builder.

The draft Local Plan has now been agreed and the Council looked through this. In terms of allocation one site in Stretham was identified at Manor Farm. Residential development in the region of 100 homes, a large part of the site is currently under development by the SWCLT, with planning permission for 75 units. The remaining allocated part of the site should deliver approximately 25 additional units at land located north of Plantation Gate. Provision of land for the extension of the Cemetery, located to the north of the site. Vehicular access to the site from Newmarket Road, at the South of the site. Plantation Gate provides an opportunity for pedestrian and cycle links, connecting the development site to the village centre.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
4 houses are to be handed over in January and all have been allocated to local people. A scheme is coming together in Wilburton.

An email was received regarding the drains down Brooke Lane and the number of tractors that are churning up the verges, it was suggested that a path be put down as there are a lot more pedestrians that use the road now. The Council discussed this proposal and felt that a path could not be put down as it could not be put all the way along the road. The farm entrance that is currently being used will soon stop so the farm traffic will not be going down Brook lane and this should help with some of the issues. The Clerk is going to write to the highways department regarding the drains.

-o-o-2018-o-o-
2018 01 02 PC
Sally Bonnet has contacted me about the cycle path feasibility study we had agreed to pay the £2,340.00 for this, it has now gone up to £3,000 are we willing to pay the extra cost.

To discuss adding the Grass cutting at Manor Farm to the current Contract
The CLT contacted The Parish Council to find out if the grassed areas at Manor Farm could be added to the current Parish Maintenance contract. The Clerk to speak to Truelink to find out how much the cost would be to add this to the current contract in place.

To receive an update on the Nursery Project
The client is meeting with the Architect to go over the original plans to see where changes can be made to the original plans. The new plans will then be update and presented to the Council. The Lease is now ready and will circulated to all parties.

2018 02 02 PC
Councillor Murfitt and I have met with Cathy regarding the trees around the recreation ground. Cathy has advised that there are no tree preservations in place on any trees, she said that the three larger trees could do with some dead wood removal and a crown lift but that they are not in any danger of coming down. If the Council wishes to replace these trees they can but she advises that they could be managed.

Truelink has advised that to add the grass cutting at Manor Farm to the current contract would be £1,200 a year.
The new gates have been fitted at the Cemetery.

Beryl Morris came to discuss the issue of rubbish around the village. Beryl and her husband walk around the village at least 3 times a week collecting multiple bags of rubbish. The Council is going to put a write up in the village Newsletter to ask that people are more considerate and put all rubbish in the bins that are provided around the village.

A resident came to discuss the holes left by football posts on the recreation ground. There are two exposed holes in the ground and a dog has recently caught his paw in the hole and required treatment from the vet. The resident asked what is going to happen to the holes and how the Council are going to move forward to ensure this does not happen again. The Council asked the Clerk to ensure that these are filled in asap and to speak with the football Club to make sure this does not happen again. The Clerk to also speak to the Council insurance company to find out who is liable for the damage to the dog.

To receive quotes for the new defibrillator
Three quotes have now been received for the Defib, the quotes were for £1,799 a reduced rate with buying the defib and cabinet from the same company, £4,088 and £4,860. The Council opted to go for the quote of £1,799 and asked the Clerk to gain installation quotes. If the Installation quote is £300 or less then the Clerk is permitted to go ahead with the project.

To receive the added cost to the grass cutting contract with Manor Farm added
The total cost for the grass cutting for Manor Farm will be £1,200 a year, however Councillor Roberts added that currently not all the grass areas have been built yet, so Marked the map with the areas that are already in place and the Clerk is to go back to Truelink to gain a quote for these areas only at present

17/01272/FUM – Proposed extension to Lazy Otter Meadows Caravan Park to allow for the siting of 344 static Holiday/Lodges. After discussion the Council objected to this planning application for the following reasons, an adverse effect on the local landscape, Highways issue with regards to access and no contribution to the already stretched resources of Stretham Village such as Doctors etc.

18/00023/FUL – Retrospective planning for the retention of three caravans adjacent to the road enter site off The Produce Connection Limited. The council made no objection to this planning matter but stated that the caravans should only be used for workers.
18/00030/VARM – Manor Farm Development. The Council made no objection to the variations of this planning application.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. Phase 3 has now started

The Clerk stated that she would like to cut her hours down from 16 to 10, and asked that an RFO be appointed to take on the financial role of the Parish Council. The Council agreed to this and decided to start advertising for an RFO, this was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Pearce with the whole Council in agreement. The Council stated that they would be happy to look at changing the sage accounting system to on that the new RFO would be happy to use.

An email was received from the yoga group who use the Parish Rooms on a Saturday morning, they have stated that the hall is very cold and they are unable to heat up the room in time for the class. The Council have agreed to put the heating on, on a Friday evening to ensure that the hall is fit for use.

An email was received from East Cambs regarding an inspection chamber at Chapel Lane, the chamber is damaged and in need of repair, however they are unsure of who owns this. The Council asked the Clerk to go back to East Cambs and let them know it is BT's responsibility.

The Council received an email from Stretham Sporting, asking the Council if they would be happy for them to put up a defib. The Council asked where the defib was going to be placed, but would be happy to donate £100 towards the fund.

Two emails were received from concerned residents, with regards to the proposed incinerator planned at Amey Cespa recycling plant a Waterbeach. The Council commented on the proposed incinerator at the last meeting and made no objections.

Recreation Ground Working Party – The Recreation working party met this month to discuss the issues of dog mess in the village. Stretham Sporting reported a reduction in the amount of dog mess on the recreation ground, however the amount around the village has increased. The working party will be meeting with the dog warden to discuss ideas of how this issue will be tackled and will be launching some local initiatives. The AWP was also looked at and the Recreation Ground working party would like to put forward that the maintenance work be carried out.

2018 03 06 PC
After discussions with our insurance company they have advised that the football club are liable for the vet's bill, due to the fact they removed the goal posts without informing us and without filling in the holes and the fact that they rent the pitch knowing that it is open to public use.

I have been approached again regarding the street light that is broken in Fieldside. I had informed the resident that the roads are un-adopted therefore it is not our responsibility or the County's to repair this. They have come back and said that the light has one of our stickers on it and the Parish Council had it installed, so we should fix it? Please can you advise. The Council stated that they did not put the street light up and because the road is un-adopted it is not their responsibility to fix. The Clerk to go back to Highways to get advice.

To receive a presentation from Gary Johns Architect for the new Nursery plans
The Architect presented an updated plan, taking into account comments received from the tenant, and aiming to make best use of the existing building. The front of the current building will be extended, the 3 rooms for the Nursery have to stay the same size for the number of children, due to

Ofsted regulations. The toilets cannot stay in the middle of the building and be a shared facility. So, the Toddler room will have to be extended to where the current toilets are to allow toilets to be built and the Pre – School room will have to be extended into the kitchen area to allow for additional toilets. The current plan is efficient as it can be using all of the available space. The changing rooms to stay as they are, with one store being made into an additional kitchen space. There are to be no shared spaces. The next step is to engage a Quantity surveyor to price the plans up to give us a budget for the build. The architect was asked to obtain quotations from 3 quantity surveyors for the work and to have the resulting costings presented back to the Council, including any required value engineering options This was proposed by Councillor Prevett and seconded by Councillor Nuttall with the whole Council in agreement.

To receive the added cost to the grass cutting contract with Manor Farm added
SWCLT have asked if we could add the grass cutting at Manor Farm to Parish Councils grass cutting contract. The cost for this will be £996 for the grass that is currently in place and rising once the development is completed. The Council asked the Clerk to go back to the SWCLT and ask for a 50% contribution towards this cost.

A letter was received from concerned residents regarding fly tipping around the village especially in the old haulage yard next to Manor Farm. The Clerk has already been in contact with the owner to ask him to clear the mess unfortunately he has not responded. A request was put into to East Cambs to ask for assistance, unfortunately they came back and said if they clear it more rubbish will be dumped as there are no preventative measures in place to stop people. The Clerk to go back to Environmental Health to see if they can help.

2018 04 03 PC
The quote has come back from DEM Sports, they have quoted for two options one is for a 30-meter net running along the hedge and one for a 40-meter net, for the 30-meter it would £4,012.00 and for a 40-meter net it would be £4,725.90. Kev's quote was £1424.28.00, The Council asked The Clerk to proceed with the Quote form Kev at Odd Jobs.

The residents from 8B Wilburton Road came to inform the Council that they had been given permission from East Cambridgeshire District Council to fill in the ditch to the front of their property. They informed the Council that a pipe will be placed into the ditch to allow for drainage. They also commented about the rubbish that is being put over the fence near their property along the footpath and assured the Council that it was not their rubbish and asked how this should be dealt with, the Council said that is would be the land owner's responsibility to deal with this.

To discuss the trees around the recreation ground
The two large Ash trees have now been removed, so two new trees need to be purchased to replace these. The Clerk to also check how many dead trees there are around the Recreation ground and get these replaced. The Council asked that park trees are purchased that are suitable for this area, the Clerk and Councillor Murfitt to go and purchase the trees. The Council agreed a spend of £1,200 for this. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Thake, with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor Roberts asked to ensure that when the trees are planed an irrigation pipe is put down to the roots so the trees can be adequately watered.

To receive an update on the Community Room project
The results of the community surveys were discussed by the Council. The majority of the surveys said that residents would like to be able to use the facility, for exercise classes, clubs, weddings and funerals. They also stated that the current Parish Rooms are not used as they are not fit for purpose. The Council also discussed the possibility of having a Social Club in the Community Room. The Council asked the Clerk to speak with other local Social Clubs to see how they are run, what types of events they have and how profitable they are, the Council also asked that a piece be put into the Newsletter asking residents if they would like to see a brand new community facility or would they like to see the current Parish Rooms renovated, the Council also asked the Clerk to speak to East

Cambs District Council to see if the Parish Rooms were to be renovated would street parking be an issue.

To receive the quote for the gardening contract
Three quotes were received for the gardening contract, one from East Cambs District Council for £9,474.60p, one from Truelink Ltd for £6,775p and one from Hamill Landscaping for £5,806.50p. The Council asked the Clerk to gain references for Hamill Landscapes and if these are acceptable the contract will be awarded to Hamill Landscape. This was proposed by Councillor Pearce and Seconded by Councillor Murfitt and approved by the whole Council.
An email was received asking the Council for information with regards to the recent Council Tax rise, Councillor Nuttall said he would respond to this email and also write a piece for the newsletter letting residents know why the precept has been increased this year.

The Council received an email regarding rubbish down at the Pavilion. When the bin bags are pt out on a Sunday night ready for collection it appears that cats are attacking the bags and the rubbish is spilling out. The Council asked the Clerk to ask Dave Russell to keep an eye on this situation. It also stated that the Pavilion gate is not being locked at night, this is due to numerous padlocks going missing, the clerk to speak to Kev to see if a padlock on a chain can be attached to the gate o it does not get lost.

An email was received from a resident who live down Cemetery Lane, the driveway just off of the tarmac road is in need of repair. After looking at the Deed of Grant for this land it states that the parish Council will repair and maintain this part of the Road. Councillor Bright and the Clerk to go and have a look at the road and see what needs repairing.

The Council received an email from a resident regarding the new proposed community facility, asking why the Council has sought land for this project already and what the need is for a new facility. The Council stated that they have made enquiries into what land may be available in the village but has not bought or rented any land. The Council also stated that they are currently in the consultation phase with the village and no firm plans have yet been made, the Council is still gathering feedback as to what the residents would like.

Recreation Ground Working Party – The Council has been approached by Wilburton Cricket Club Youth team to see if the Youth Team could come and play and practice on Stretham Recreation ground. The Clerk to agenda this for the next meeting. Councillor parish also reminded the Council that after consultation last year with the village it was requested that a basket ball hoop be put up on the recreation ground for basketball practise. The Clerk to look into what type and size of hardstanding is required.
Several complaints have been received regarding the lorries going down Green End, there is a lot of damage to the banks and lorries are going down the road and then reversing backwards. The Clerk to speak to Kier to see if The Council and Keir can speak to the Highways Department to get some signs up stating that the road is not suitable for HGV's.

2018 04 06 p11
Closed off a stretch of the A10 to deal with the incident near Stretham

2018 05 01 PC
The Clerk spoken to the football club who would like us to pay Mr Murfitt the vet bill and they will reimburse the Council with the money? The Council agreed that this should come straight from Stretham Sporting.

SWCLT have come back to the Council regarding the grass cutting and would be happy to pay 50% of the yearly cut.

To approve the audited end of year accounts for 2018

The Council viewed the annual return, The Clerk explained that we are owed some Land rent and that is why it is down from last year, the Council asked that all CIL money that has been received is reported on a separate line, including what it has been spent on. It was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Speed to approve the annual return.
Councillors asked that the RFO look into the options of putting the reserve money into a bond account, this was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Thake.
Matters arising from the AGM

The Council agreed that communication with the Village needs to be improved. A report should be published each year stating what the precept is and what the Council propose to do and why.

To discuss Wilburton Cricket Club using the recreation ground
Wilburton Cricket Club are looking at moving to Stretham. They have been to the recreation ground and have had a look at where two potential Cricket squares could go.

To discuss the driveway repairs at Cemetery approach
Councillor Bright has been to see the occupants of the house on Cemetery approach. The occupant has got a puncture from the channel curb. The driveway was tarmacked when built but not up to the top. The drain channel outside the driveway is currently exposed. To top the bit of road that we own would cost around £1,300 - £1,800. The Clerk to speak to Pam at Highways to see if they can help with this at all. This was proposed by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Pearce with the whole Council in agreement.

To receive an update on the Nursery Project
The Quantity Surveyor has been appointed. All of the Councils comments have been taken on board and put in to the plans. Councillor Taylor to have a Recreation Ground Working Party meeting and to invite the local football clubs to show them the plans.

An email was received regarding a party held at the Parish Rooms, the party went on very late and the Police had to be called to a disturbance. The Clerk to speak to the bookings secretary to say that when this happens people will be put on a list and not able to hire the rooms out anymore.

An email was received in response to the text put out into the Newsletter regarding the proposed New Community building. It stated that ‘’having spent a considerable sum purchasing the Parish rooms from the Church, it surely makes sense to use any available funds to renovate them and make them fit for purpose, rather than build yet another Village hall’’.

The Clerk to get in touch with Stretham Pumping engine to see if the board in Jubilee gardens can be changed or removed.

2018 06 05 PC
The Clerk is currently working with Pam at Highways regarding the non-HGV signs for Green End, Pam is checking to see what the legalities are with putting the signs up. The Council also suggested that it may be worth the Clerk writing to the farms to ask them to direct HGV drivers away from Green End.

The Council also asked the Clerk to Speak with Keir regarding the pumping engine board in Jubilee gardens and see if it can be removed or updated.

To review the Play Park inspection reports
ROSPA have been to inspect the recreation Ground, Ely road Play Park and the All-Weather Pitch. There were a few minor findings, the gate at the recreation Ground needs a new buffer fitted and the slide needs sanding back and repainting. The Council asked the Clerk to speak to Kev bell to get these jobs completed. The report also stated that the Swings down at the Recreation ground needing taking apart to ensure they are still safe, this is because of their age. The Clerk will arrange for this

to take place. The Clerk also informed the Council that the mushroom that was fixed in Ely Road paly park has broken again and one of the springs on the Bouncy bed has broken, the Clerk to speak to Hags to get these fixed.

To approve waste bins at Manor Farm
Manor farm have requested 5 dog waste bins and 2 litters bins be placed down at Manor Farm. The Councillor Saunt is going to go and look at Manor Farm to see if 5 are required and to look at the best locations for them. While this is happening, the Clerk will order 1 dog waste bin to be placed at the entrance to Manor Farm, a waste bin and another waste bin for the play park.

To discuss the next steps of the Community Room project
Councillor Parish spoke to the Council and explained that after the village consultation at the Feast it has come back that the village would like to see a new Community Room facility in the village. It was proposed that the Amenities Working Party look into the possibility of gaining full funding for this project and look at taking this project further. This was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Speed with the whole Council in agreement.

To receive an update on the Nursery Project
The quantity surveyor has come back with their costs and the project comes to an estimated £350,000 + VAT, this includes fees, £20,000 for the car park refurbishments and £30,000 for the changing rooms. If cut backs were made the project could be brought down to around £260,000 just for the building work. The budget that the Council set was £150,000 so this price is over budget by quite a considerable amount.
The Council proposed to go back to the client and make suggestions of cut backs that could be made to the project and ask for a larger contribution towards the project. This was proposed by Councillor Murfitt and seconded by Councillor Speed.

A new finance system – Scribe has been installed. We have chosen the one with a cloud database which means that information is securely backed up to the cloud and cannot be lost is the laptop malfunctions Early indications is that it is an easy system to navigate and will produce more informative reports on cost centres. System is based on receipts and payments. The finance committee have agreed to consider an online bank account (view only) so that up to date information can be accessed on payments received and account balances. I have contacted the bank to get information on alternative bank accounts for the account that currently holds the reserves. Please see below for options as at 30/05/2018 current rate is 0.05%. The Council agreed to put the money in a 32 day notice account this was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Speed with the whole Council in agreement.
I have reviewed the energy prices currently being paid for the Pavilion and the Parish rooms. The Council agreed the RFO should switch the electricity to get a better deal, this was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Bright with the whole Council in agreement.

Pavillion	Usage per year – 3043 kwh	Current charge £768.88	
New Fixed – Octopus	1 year fixed	New charge £473.76	(-£295.12)
New Fixed - EDF	1 year fixed	New charge £480.00	(-£288.88)
Parish Rooms	Usage per year – 750 kwh	Current charge £297.30	
New Fixed - EDF	1 year fixed	New Charge £214.65	(-£82.65)

An email was received by a concerned resident of Green End, stating they were having an issue with water draining away from their homes and gardens and after talks with Anglian water and the Highways department no one has taken responsibility for the issue. The Council asked the Clerk to speak to Highways to see if anything can be done and advised that the resident speak again with Anglian water.

An email was received regarding the footpath between Green End and Fieldside to say that it is very over grown. The Clerk and Councillor Saunt to do a full review of all the footpaths to ensure they are being cut.

The Clerk received a phone call regarding parking at King Cob. The resident was concerned about the number of cars being parked on the road. The Council discussed this issue but unfortunately felt there was no a lot that could be done regarding this issue.

Mepal Football club have been in touch to see if they could use the Stretham Football pitch again next season. The Council said that this would be ok as there are no other teams wanting to use the pitch at that time, however if a Stretham team wanted to use it then this would have to be looked at. The Council agreed to look at this on a season by season basis.

An email was received regarding the Grave Yard, stating that it is not being kept in a good condition and the grass was very long. Due to the grass cutting contract being taken over by the new contractor there was a period where the grass did get very long, this has now been cut. Councillor Parish and the Clerk went to have a look at the Grave yard and felt that it was looking ok, the Clerk to speak to the contractor about getting unkept older graves tidied up and ensure that the grass is cut between the graves.

2018 07 03 PC
The Clerk has met with the contractors and gained the quotes for the driveway repairs at cemetery approach. LM grounds work have quoted £3,500 total, pro edge construction has quoted £1,800 + vat and Manit have quoted £1,700 + VAT. The Council asked The Clerk to go ahead with the quote from Manit

Pam has consulted the policy and regs and a sign stating no through road is going to be put up at green end. She has said that if the council wanted to put up a corex sign saying no HGV this would be ok.

Councillor Saunt has marked on the map all of the footpaths and I have spent some time with the contractor going around and looking at the footpaths and the cemetery. The footpaths are in the contract to be cut 6 times a year, so when cutting began they were still getting overgrown as they were growing so rapidly. The footpath behind the church has proved to be a bit of an issue and has not been cut quite as wide as we would like, this was due to the occupant of the house with the large glass windows not wanting the cutter to get to close to his house. Unfortunately, Luke did not have all of the footpaths marked clearly on the original maps provided but he did manage to find all of them apart from footpath 20 (he has cut that today), he has now been supplied with all the correct information and I enclosed in all your Packs a copy of the contract including all the maps of the green spaces and footpaths that they are cutting. Hamill Landscapes have quoted for the following works, to crown lift the tree next to the zebra crossing £50.00 + VAT, To cut the hedge to the right of Chapel Lane 18’’ beyond edge of footpath £150.00 + VAT, To crown lift the tree as you come out of Pump Lane on to the High Street £50.00 and to reduce the elder at the rear corner of the Parish Rooms (due to over hanging on the roof) £100.00 + VAT.The Council asked the Clerk to go ahead with these quotes.

Sally Bonnet has again asked if Stretham Parish Council will pay for the feasibility study for the cycle path, they have not managed to get anyone else to contribute so they are looking for the full £3,000.

Haggs are currently looking into the warranties for Ely Road play park with regards to the two pieces of broken equipment to see if they can be replaced or if we need to buy new/parts and they are also coming to look at the integrity of the swings down at the recreation ground. The Clerk has also attended an amenities meeting.

Rachel Watts was in attendance on behalf of the CLT. Rachel thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the CLT for all of their continued support. She also came to speak to the Council regarding the Play Park at Manor Farm. It is currently being maintained by the builders Laragh Homes and is soon due to be handed over. The CLT would like to ask if Stretham Pairsh Council would take on the maintenance of the park, including insuring the park and adding it to its schedule of inspections each year. It would make sense for it to be added to the Councils existing insurance etc as the whole village are able to use the park.

To review the waste bins at Manor Farm
Councillor Saunt has been to look at what the village currently has in respect to dog waste bins and has identified a few areas that need bins adding, this to be added to the agenda for the next meeting. With this in mind Councillor Saunt had a look round Manor Farm and would like to suggest the Council put the following bins at Manor Farm. One dog waste bin at the entrance to the Woodland Walk, one Dog waste bin and one rubbish bin on the green and one dog waste bin to be placed on the bridge once it is built. This was proposed by Councillor Saunt and seconded by Councillor Taylor with the whole Council in agreement.

To discuss the next steps of the Community Room project.
Councillor Nuttall produced a draft of the Financial Plan for the amenities working party to look at the last meeting. Looking at a rough cost per square meter it worked out that the project would cost well over one million pounds. The Consultant has been looking at different funding options and currently the Council would only qualify for £300,000. The amenities working party looked at other sources of income that could be added to the project, but it would still mean that the Council would need to take out a mortgage with a minimum of £25,000 to pay back a year to complete this project. This has a massive impact on the viability of this project and the Council would need to increase the precept by a considerable amount to make it work. The Council felt that this was not the best option for the village. Councillor Taylor presented the Council with some ides of different locations and options for the Council to consider, the Council asked that this be added to the agenda for a future meeting, allowing Councillors time to read of the information. The Council also asked Councillor Nuttall to circulate the draft Financial Plan.

18/00062/FUL – 14 Brook Lan, Stretham – Proposed 3 Bed Dwelling and Associated works. The Planning authority, East Cambridgeshire District Council, have requested a Great Crested Newt survey to inform their decision on the planning application given the presents of a pond within the application site. This planning application has now been approved

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
4 more houses are due to be signed over to CLT, they have all been allocated. The next houses are running a month ahead of schedule and are due to be handed over in September. The planned Doctors surgery has been moved locations, this means there will be 2 or maybe 3 more business units going up.

To receive an update on the Nursery Project
It was stated in the Heads of Terms that if the Nursery project was over budget the client would need to put more money into the project. The client has spent time with the architect and changes have been made to the plans to try and get it back in budget. It was suggested that 3 builders are asked to come and look at the project and provide a fixed cost for the building work, to check that the price the Quantity Surveyor has provided is indeed correct. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.

Scribe continues to work well however the report function has not worked since installation. Scribe are looking at fixing this and have offer in the meantime to produce reports for me, they have also offered to refund the upgrade fee to the cloud data based that the council paid of £120. A budget report was shown to the Finance committee this month, this has a positive response and we discuss

which other ones may be helpful. The reserve account has now been moved to a 32 day interest account, we are awaiting the paperwork and new account number.

The bank has also set the RFO with a view only access to internet banking. I now have the login details. An account has been set up with Viking for bulk stationery purchases, this will prove a help to the clerk and RFO as it will make it easier to order and pay for general stationery and postage. Electricity for the Parish rooms and pavilion is currently being switched over to a cheaper provider. A previous clerk has been removed from the signatories list held at the bank. The RFO stated that it was difficult to ensure all invoices are paid when she receives them on the day of the meeting, therefore she has requested that all invoices for payment are received by the last day of each month to ensure that the cheques and reports can be written.

Stretham Community Primary School has written asking for a letter of support towards a grant they are applying for to extend their play equipment at school. The Council asked the Clerk to provide a letter of support.

Councillor Pearce asked that all the up to date minutes are added to the website.

2018 08 19 Cambs Times
By election likely in East Cambridgeshire after second councillor set to join Mayor Palmer's combined authority in 'politically sensitive' role. A Tory county councillor and former British diplomat is set to force a by election after only a year in office to take on a £100,000 directorship of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.
Councillor Paul Raynes - who is also a deputy chairman of the SE Cambridgeshire Conservative – has been offered the post of director of strategy and planning. His job offer is thought to have been made after only a handful of candidates applied for the job – that offers a salary up to a potential £130,000 a year – and his name was put forward by mayor James Palmer and his deputy Councillor Charles Roberts.
The authority is anxious to recruit the staff needed to forge ahead with its ambitious programme – nearly half of the 60 staff currently on the payroll are either consultants, holding interim positions or on secondment. One member of the combined authority told me tonight: "I wasn't involved in the process but I understand his name was added at the short listing meeting by the mayor and Cllr Roberts, the East Cambs leader and deputy mayor." My source said: "He did not appear to go through the same process as other applicants – and only two were later interviewed by a panel of three, including the mayor and his deputy".
If confirmed it will mean it is the second time Mayor Palmer has recruited an East Cambridgeshire councillor to a role within the combined authority: last year he took on Tom Hunt as his chief of staff. That also meant a by election.
Cllr Raynes was reluctant to talk about his appointment when I called him tonight at his Isleham home. The father of four returned a call after I left a voicemail but after accepting a suggestion that I call him back after he complained of a poor signal the phone repeatedly went to voice mail. When he stood for the Soham North and Isleham division last year he described his wide experience as embracing both business and public service. He is currently a director of a tech company. Cllr Raynes says he has worked with councils across the country on transport, economic development and planning. He has also been an adviser to the government on transport issues, and was a member of a government review of public libraries. A Conservative election official last year described him as a diplomat who was in post at the British Embassy in Paris at the time of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.
The election official said: "Paul is campaigning for better local transport links, especially upgrading the A10, an improved junction between the A142 and A14, and the return of a railway station to Soham, together with the line improvements needed to run good connections through to Ely and Cambridge. "He wants to put his business and management experience to ensure better value for taxpayers' money and a more efficient county council."
A senior Conservative councillor in East Cambridgeshire confirmed to me tonight that he expected Cllr Raynes to resign because of the "politically sensitive" role he had been offered with the

combined authority. The councillor said in due course applicants from within the Tory party would be invited to apply for the vacant seat ahead of a by election. My combined authority source added: "There are definite governance and probity issues about the process. Partly because of the holidays, combined authority members only have it second hand and the employment committee has operated without reporting or requiring specific confirmation except statutory posts - other than it would be expected that the appointment would be reported to the next board meeting in mid September."
On his Linked In profile – a website for professionals – Cllr Raynes describes himself as a "thought leader, influencer and communicator in economic, education, localism and welfare reform issues, with strong senior leadership experience across public and private sectors and broad experience of leading change. "I've influenced policy innovation from Free Schools to City Deals and delivered real-world improvements from better exam results to buzzier libraries.

2018 08 22
The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority announced tonight they are looking into a "potential data protection breach" over the leaking of the appointment of a county councillor to a £100,000 director's role. The authority insists the recruitment of Councillor Paul Raynes of Soham – elected only last year but now obliged to quit to take up the directorship – was fair and in accordance with their employment procedures.
An authority spokesman said: "The facts are that Paul Raynes applied via an independent recruitment advisor, was at no point deselected from the interview process and was recruited as a result of a unanimous panel decision. You will no doubt be aware that he has now resigned from his councillor position. We would like also to make you aware that the combined authority is looking into a potential data protection breach relating to the way in which information regarding the recruitment process was communicated to you."
Yesterday the authority rebutted the claim that Cllr Raynes had been eliminated from the selection process following an assessment panel that included Councillor Kevin Price of Cambridge City Council. The statement said: "The panel on which Cllr Raynes sat gave its input as just one part of several assessments which fed into an overall process to make a final decision: meaning Paul Raynes did not exit the process."
Karl Fenlon, interim head of HR at the combined authority, said: "We conducted an open and competitive recruitment process in accordance with the requirements of both our constitution and our employment committee. All applications were made to an independent, national, recruitment advisor: no direct applications were considered. The recruitment advisors provided a list of applicants for this position to be position to the employment panel, as approved by the employment committee. Candidates were then long-listed by the panel before attending a series of assessments."
Mr Fenlon said Cllr Price took part in these assessments before a number of candidates were short listed by the employment panel. "This list of candidates attended a final interview with the employment sub-committee which reached a decision on the preferred candidate." Mr Fenlon said: "The director roles were advertised in the recruitment pages of the Telegraph, Times and Guardian websites, plus Linkedin. "The employment sub committee comprised of the mayor, deputy mayor Charles Roberts, and Cllr Ryan Fuller with chief executive Martin Whitely in attendance as an observer. They were supported by the external recruitment advisor."
Mayor James Palmer had earlier been accused of running "an old boys club" following the revelation that Cllr had been offered the job.
The criticism came from Councillor Price, until last month deputy leader of Labour controlled Cambridge City Council and a member of the combined authority. He rebuked Mayor Palmer for offering the post of strategy and planning director to Cllr Raynes. Cllr Price was part of an assessment panel interviewing candidates and said that "after interviewing Councillor Raynes we reached the unanimous conclusion that he would not be a suitable candidate and that was our recommendation. It is therefore very surprising that this appointment has now been made. It must also be a concern that once again, the combined authority has made an appointment from the East Cambs area. In my view an elected serving member of a constituent authority of the combined authority should not be able to apply for a senior level and politically restricted officer post on that authority. Where that person also has a clear history of involvement at a high level with a political party dating back many years and is the current vice chair of the mayor's own local Conservative

association it is difficult to understand how anyone can have confidence in him in a politically restricted post."
Cllr Price said: "The mayor already has political advisors, one of whom (Tom Hunt) was at the time of his appointment a serving councillor in East Cambs and who was immediately given a significant pay hike and new job title. The combined authority has an important job to do across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough but it is opening itself to the criticism that it is instead fast becoming an old boys club based solely on the whims of a single political party and a single constituent member of the authority."
Lib Dem Councillor Lucy Nethsingha said: "I have asked for information about how the appointment was made, his salary and his qualifications for this role."
The leader of Cambridge City Council called for Mayor Palmer to be more open about the selection process. Cllr Herbert, who is also the combined authority's portfolio holder for strategic planning, said: "Along with others, I have real concerns about aspects of the combined authority's recent senior recruitment process. On the appointment of Councillor Raynes the mayor has said that he didn't personally prompt the application. However, I ask him to be open more widely, including in Paul Raynes' interest, to be clear about the stage Paul Raynes joined the application process, and the specific route that application followed."
Mayor Palmer "totally rejected" the notion that he or his deputy, Councillor Charles Roberts, also the leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, had personally put forward Paul Raynes for the role of director for strategy and planning "in contravention of the standard recruitment process. The first I knew of his application was seeing his submitted CV, as with all the other applicants."
The mayor said: "I also completely reject reports that suggest that myself, Cllr Roberts and the combined authority have acted improperly in this recruitment process. "Our processes are open, fair and competitive and Paul Raynes was selected purely on merit and based on the impressive and highly relevant experience he has. I believe that process has resulted in an appointment which will be a huge asset to the combined authority."
Mayor Palmer added: "His new role is a politically restricted officer post and he will therefore be stepping down as a councillor, as is quite right in cases such as this."
Mayor Palmer said Cllr Price had made his comments "from the perspective of just one part of a much wider interview process, as is appropriate for a position of this importance". The mayor said: "In his interview with myself, Cllr Roberts and the combined authority chief executive, Mr Raynes performed very impressively. The final stage of the process required him to go before the combined authority employment sub committee, which included myself, Cllr Roberts and Cllr Ryan Fuller. Unfortunately Labour did not put forward a representative to attend the sub committee at that particular meeting."
Mayor Palmer added: "Mr Raynes' experience both in local and national government, as well as his work across public and private sectors were highly relevant to the role at the combined authority. During his many years at The Local Government Association, he had a direct involvement in the campaign for greater devolution, which led to metro mayors and combined authorities, so his knowledge, experience and understanding of the position are excellent. Mr Raynes has a wealth of talent and experience to offer and the reality is that he was the exceptional candidate in a strong field of applicants."
Cllr Roberts described Cllr Raynes as "exceptional" who would make a considerable contribution to the combined authority. He said Cllr Price sat in on only one part of the recruitment process in which Cllr Raynes came through to a short list of two prior to his appointment. The interviewees were screened by two separate panels and also assessed during a lunch attended by all applicants and councillors and recruitment advisors. Cllr Roberts said he was not aware until the last moment of the application by Cllr Raynes "but there was no way I wouldn't have seen him simply because he was a county councillor."
Councillor Price responded: "I remain of the view that where a panel set up to assess a candidate 'technically' unanimously rejects someone as unsuitable for a senior level post, that should weigh heavily against them, despite any more general interviews or how they get on with others at lunch. In my experience of attending other interviews for combined authority posts with both the mayor and deputy mayor, it has been my view that in depth knowledge and experience in the specific area

of a post has been less valued than the ability to agree with the mayor and to look only to the mayor for a lead rather than serve the wider council membership of the Combined Authority."
Wisbech Standard 22nd August 2018

2018 09 04 PC
There was an issue with a booking at the Pavilion on Sunday, the party was due in at 9.00am and someone had bolted the front door meaning we could not get access, a key was found from the football team and we managed to get access. The bolt that was on the front door has now been removed. The people who booked the hall would like a full refund of the booking fee. The financial audit is now complete and back from PKF Little John.

Some members of the public were in attendance from Fieldside, they came to discuss the faulty street light in Fieldside. The Clerk has looked into this issue previously and was told that Fieldside is an unadopted road and therefore not a light that is maintained by Cambridgeshire County Council. The Clerk to get in contact with Cambridgeshire County Council to clarify who is to maintain this light.

To discuss the planting of new trees around the recreation ground and their maintenance
Councillor Murfitt, Councillor Saunt and the Clerk have been to Brachams and purchased 8 new trees for the Recreation Ground. Councillor Saunt advised that the reason the trees have not previously flourished is because of the lack of watering, Water bags can be purchased along with the trees and these would need to be filled up once a week. The Clerk to get a quote for the watering from the gardening contractor. Councillor Saunt also advised that some of the trees have also been damaged by lawn mowers and strimming to close to the trees, the Council asked the Clerk to get a quote for tree guards to protect them from this. Barchams have also supplied a quote for planting the trees, this would be £840.00. The Council agreed to go with this quote.

18/01033/FUM – Land opposite to Tile Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham. The creation of a lake and siting of four holiday lodges. The Council made no objections to this planning; however, they would like it stipulated that these are holiday lodges only.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Councillor Roberts gave an update on the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust project: Four more houses have recently been handed over to the Trust and are now occupied by local working people. Two more homes are due for completion in October and have already been allocated - Those 2 will bring the total number of Land Trust houses to 12. Eventually the Trust will have 23 homes in Stretham. The Stretham Land Trust has been a huge success providing much needed homes that are affordable for local people earning local wages. There is great demand for the houses in Stretham and as the Trust serves both Stretham and Wilburton, land has recently been secured in Wilburton to provide further homes and other facilities. A comprehensive community engagement exercise will begin in September so that the people of Wilburton can decide what they want included in their scheme and what they want it to look like.

To receive an update on the Nursery Project
Councillor Nuttall proposed that a schedule of works needs to be drawn up. Councillor Roberts asked the Clerk to speak with the following builders to gain an initial quote on the building of the Nursery to see how they compare with the quote from the quantity Surveyor. The Clerk to speak with Salmons Brothers, Paul Frost and E N Suiter.

Stretham FC have folded and the Scouts are no longer operating so this will have an effect on income for both the recreation ground and parish room rental. Beavers continues to run.

2018 09 27
Descendants of head-hunting tribe and their poignant journey: Luskai people from Mizoram, India, visit Stretham to dedicate headstone to Frederick William Savidge, missionary 2018 09 27 ES

2018 09 29 p6
The crash happened at 1.45 pm on the stretch of the A10 between Stretham Roundabout and the A142 Angel Drove

2018 10 02 PC
The Clerk has spoken with Mike Petty regarding the Rev Savage *[Savidge]* and passed the information out to Councillors to look through.

There has been some vandalism down at the Pavilion and the Cemetery Shed, with 6 windows being smashed and a brick has been put through the shed window. The Clerk had these made safe and has a quote form for the glass to be replaced, this will be £666.61 +VAT, the Council asked the Clerk to go ahead and get them repaired.

The Clerk also met with Salmons Brothers and Paul Frost to gain initial quotes for the building of the Nursery, when the Clerk spoke o EN Suitor they advised that without a detailed specification they would be unable to provide a quote just based on the drawing. Both quotes are just a guide as they would not be able to give an accurate quote but just a guide.

To view and agree the proposed budget for 2018/2019
All of the line items of the budget were reviewed at the last Finance meeting. The finance committee estimated the budget lines to March 2019, considering what has already been spent. It was noted that CIL money is considered a one-off receipt, and is set aside of the usual expenditure to be spent on infrastructure. After looking at the budget it was thought that next year would be a similar year to this, with no big projects coming up. The Recreation ground working party asked that £1000 be put into the budget for the maintenance of the All-Weather Pitch to ensure it is kept in good repair. Councillor Nuttall to make all relevant changes to the Budget and submit this to all Councillors.

To set the precept for 2018/2019
The Council reviewed the proposed budget for the year starting March 2019. Since the previous budget review, the Council has put in place a new finance system which provides much greater accuracy in forecasting the budget receipts and expenditure for the year ahead. This improvement in forecasting, the reduction in exceptional items expected in the year ahead compared to last year, and an expected surplus for the current year, allow the Council to reduce the precept for the year starting March 2019 to £66,000 compared to £75,000 in the current year, and just 3% increase over the precept 2 years ago – the year starting March 2017. The Council feel that the reduced level of precept is still sufficient to cover expected expenditure in the year ahead, including provision for some increased maintenance costs and some additional projects. The Council were unanimous in agreeing to the revised precept.

To review the building quotes for the proposed Nursery Project
The original budget for the Nursery project was set at 150k, The Clerk received two quotes for the building works and presented these to the Council. The First quote received was from Salmons Brothers Ltd £236,634.72 + Vat & the Changing room side is £29,307.60 + Vat. The Second quote received was from Paul Frost was between £180k - £200k. Both builders said their quotes were based on the drawings alone as no specification was given. The Council asked the Clerk to work with the Architects Gary Johns to put together a detailed specification, based on the original drawings, to allow the builders to give a more accurate quote. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Bright, with 6 Councillors in agreement and 2 Councillors against.

18/00918/VAR – Meadow Farm – An amendment was made to this application, involving a revised construction management plan and additional conformation regarding foul water. The Council made

no further comments on this application. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and Seconded by Councillor Speed.

18/01129/CLP – 8 Poachers Way, Stretham. Construction of outbuilding/garage. A certificate of lawfulness or proposed use or development, has been received. The Council asked the Clerk to find out what can be done about the conversion of garages to residential space, and the consequent loss of the parking space in the garage leading to more cars in the street.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
No new updates to report on the SWCLT. However, Wilburton's first consultation has taken place and a feedback meeting is being arranged.

Councillor Saunt proposed that the Council look into using the Census to track where people lived in Stretham before they went to fight in the first World War and then with the owner's permission place a plaque on the wall of those houses Councillor Parish Asked that this be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting to discuss further.

An email was received regarding children on bikes and people on motor bikes riding down Back Lane and along by the church yard. The Council asked the Clerk to report this to the Police and to ask anyone who sees this happening to also report it to the Police.

A letter was received about a concerned resident at Green End. The tress, hedges and brambles are getting very overgrown and will soon be touching the cars as they go past, the letter also stated that there is a very large Willow Tree on the roadside which is overhanging the persons property and they are worried about it causing damage. The Council advised that the Highways department and the tree warden at East Cambs District Council should be informed of this matter. If the hedge and brambles are coming from the fields then it would need to be taken up with the landowner.

A letter from Ken Ellis was received, informing the Council that the Roll of Honour of those who gave their lives in World War One is being restored and repaired for public display in the Church. The Cost of the renovation is £246.00, has been under written by St James Church but he has asked would the Council like to contribute towards the work? The Council agreed to pay half the cost of the renovations, £143.00. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.

Footpaths Working party – There are still a number of slates broken on the bridge at Wakefield Way. Councillor Bright is going to go down and take a look. Councillor Bright also stated that Berry Close is currently not being cut by the Contractors and the grass is getting very long. Councillor Roberts informed the Council that Berry Close is currently cut by East Cambs District Council as it is contracted to them by Sanctory Housing and therefore not cut by Stretham Parish Council

2018 10 08 p2
Three people have been arrested following a massive straw stack blaze in Stretham

2018 10 09 p4
A stretch of the A1123 between Wicken and Stretham is set to be closed in both directions for up to five

2018 10 11 p50
Proposed detached dwelling and double garage at land south of 1-4 Stowbridge cottages, Green End … application for planning permission which does not accord

2018 10 16

William Henry Wakefield of Stretham passed away at Arthur Rank Hospice on 8th October 2018, aged 92 years

2018 11 01 p46
At Cambridge Science Park and now lives in Stretham. Among her record-breaking teams mates

2018 11 06 PC
After it was reported in the last newsletter regarding the wheel ride down at the recreation ground, a resident from Short Road came forward and offered to help with the repair. After looking at it, it turns out that it is not just the wield that is broken but also the bearing. I have gone back to Playdale with detailed photos of the ride and they responded with the following. Thank you for the pictures, as this is unusual and Playdale have never seen this on our Aero Whirl before I have had our Technical manager look at this. His conclusion is we are happy to repair the weld free of charge, however the weld has failed because the bearings have seized (by not being maintained) so you will therefore need new bearings. You will require one new part and a weld repair – this is for the bearings etc. The Part you need is £617.79. However, because of the failed weld we are willing to offer you a 25% discount on this part and repair the weld free of charge in our Ulverston warehouse. This will mean our engineers collect the part from yourself and returning to site to re-fir once repaired (this part is chargeable as this isn't covered by the guarantees). The Council felt that this should be contested as no maintenance requirements were given at the time of installation, the Clerk to go back to Playdale to discuss this further. The cost of a new Areo Whirl is £1,075.

As you may be aware the new Defib has not yet gone up yet. The cabinet which the Defib goes in has to have a built-in code to access it, I am currently waiting to receive the correct code from the Ambulance service. This will mean that the Defib will be on a list of approved Defibs that the Ambulance service can direct people to and they will also be able to access it. We will have the code and be able to give it out.

There has been an issue with the heating in the Parish rooms, we got very low on oil and thought this was the issue, but once filled up the boiler was still not coming on. I have had a plumber out and there was a pipe that needed replacing. I have also booked the boiler in for a service, but the plumber has advised that we look in to getting the boiler more secure in a locked cabinet as he thinks someone has been messing about with it, turning buttons on etc. The Council suggested a pad lock be put on the front of the cabinet.

Councillor Bright has been and looked at the Bridge on the Footpath to middle Drove, he has done a temporary fix on some slates but 22 out of 39 defiantly need repairing and the others looked at, would you like me to get someone to do this? The Council asked the Clerk to look at getting the repairs done. This was proposed by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Roberts.

To receive Councillor Saunts plans for the erection on plaques on the house of the World War One soldiers
Councillor Saunt has found a company that can produce the plaques, they will cost £14.99p and include the fixings we would need 24. Names and messages can then be added to the Plaques. Councillor Saunt has suggest a memorial map / leaflet is produced showing all of the houses where the Soldiers who left for World War one lived, this could also be added into the Newsletter. The cost of adding it to the Newsletter would be £100, Ely print shop could produce 1000 leaflets for the cost of £83 pounds in black and white and £179 in colour. The young at Heart group would like to get involved in the research of the house occupied. Councillor Saunt will continue to progress this project with the full Councils backing and report back at the next meeting.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
2 Houses are due to come over soon, these have been allocated. The initial bid process has been approved for the doctor's surgery The NHS has also given it the amber light to move forward and are currently working up the designs and detailed specification, however planning consent has not

yet been given. The NHS are currently looking at centralising services rather than just building doctors surgeries. The template will include other services within it.
Councillor Parish passed on thanks on behalf of the Council for all of the hard work the SWCLT are putting in to this project and asked that if the Council can be of any help for the SWCLT to ask.

The Stretham WI emailed to ask that for their 100th anniversary next year could they place a planter by the village sign at the junction of High Street and Newmarket road. The planter would be 3ft x 2ft and they would take responsibility for planting and watering. The Council agreed to this proposal but asked that the Council could see the design before it is put up.

The Council received a letter of complaint from the Yoga group regarding the heating situation in the Parish Rooms. The Council proposed that the Yoga group is offered a free session next month. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Bright, with the whole Council in agreement.

The Council received an email informing them that the following name has been suggested for the new street at Meadow Farm, Fieldside ‘Old Orchard Lane’ the Council made no objections to this.

2018 12 04 PC
The Clerk has spoken to Playdale and they sent on the manual that came with the paly equipment, after reading through it stated we should be doing weekly visual inspections of the equipment and then the annual inspection. It also stated that the 'The spinning mechanism works with two sealed bearings that require no maintenance', therefore the Clerk has gone back to them again and stated that as we have followed the annual then the part must be faulty and should be replaced.

There has been some more vandalism, graffiti sprayed on the side of the Pavilion and on a wall down at The Grove, 3 windows have also been smashed again down at the Pavilion. These were reported to the Police and the Clerk had a conversation with Jonathan Hall regarding the issues and we are planning to meet up this month to discuss further.

The Clerk has spoken to Rebecca Saunt at planning regarding the garage conversion she has come back with the following guidance; If there is a condition removing permitted development rights to convert the garage then anyone wishing to do this would need to apply for permission to convert the garage. Our parking standards require 2 parking spaces and if these did not remain then we would be unlikely to support an application.

To receive the builder’s quotes regarding the Nursery project
All three quotes were received from EN Suiter, Salons Brothers and Paul Frost. These quotes are budget quotes gained from supplying the builders with plans, drawings and a specification produced by Gary Johns Architects. Councillor Parish asked that all quotes be supplied to the Finance Sub – Committee for them to look over and to see if any savings can be made. Tis item will be put on the agenda for the Full Parish Council meeting in January where the Finance Sub – Committee will report back with their findings.

To receive an update by Councillor Saunt on the Blue Plaque project
Councillor Saunt has been doing research using the census, the Millilumen project material and working with Mike Petty. It has been found that 100 men left from the village to fight in World War one. It has been hard to locate the 24 men that are on the war memorial due to the streets being re – numbered in the village since the war. However more research is still to be done. The Council agreed to allocate a £600 budget for this project, this was proposed by Councillor Speed and seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.

Village Maps

Councillor Nuttall presented a number of old maps he has found of the village and surrounding area, dating from around 1880 – 1920. It was suggested that the Council may like to purchase and have mounted a set of maps for display in the Parish Rooms. Councillor Nuttall will look into the cost of purchasing and mounting the maps and present the cost to the Council at the January meeting.
It was also noted that there is not a current up to date map of the village and the footpaths, the Clerk will liaise with Cambridge County Council to find out if there is one available or to see if they can help with getting one made.

To receive an update on the traffic issues in the Village
The Clerk asked in the Newsletter for residents to contact the Council if they were worried about any particular areas or hotspots in the village. This was asked for after a number of complaints were received about dangerous driving. The Clerk read out all the responses, with the following areas being identified. Cars coming down from the High Street and sweeping off towards the shop down Chapel Lane, Short Road, Reads Street, Newmarket Road and coming from the A10 on to Ely Road. The Highways Sub – Committee will be analysing these findings and then going to Cambridgeshire County Council to discuss ways in which these areas may be improved.

To receive an update on the All – Weather Pitch maintenance
A quote has been received from Cambridge Artificial Grass to repair the damage to the AWP and for the annual maintenance. The quote came to £1,310.00. The Council asked the Clerk to go back to them and ask for the quote to be broken down into repairs and annual maintenance, the Clerk to also try and gather another 2 quotes as the total cost exceeds the £1,000 limit.

The Council received a letter from SWCLT regarding the doctor's surgery. Over the last two years, SWCLT has been working with NHS England and the Clinical Commissioning Group with support from East Cambs District Council to move forward with this project. Numerous meetings have happened and a Project Initiation Document (PID) was submitted earlier in the year. Rowan Haysom of Haysom Ward Miller Architects has been working closely with all parties involved (including the doctors at Haddenham Surgery to ensure the design meets all the criteria currently required for new surgeries). SWCLT recently received the good news that the PID has been approved and the project can now progress to the next stage. Further work is now required by the architects to build up to a planning application. Once the work is complete the planning application will be submitted to East Cambs District Council Planning Department. SWCLT does not currently have the cash to fund the next stage and has requested support from Stretham Parish Council. t was noted that the Manor Farm development has already delivered over £50,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy money to the Parish Council. The Council is strongly in favour of a new and improved doctor's surgery. After careful consideration the Council agreed to support SWCLT with the project by committing funding of up to £33,600 to get the doctor's surgery to the planning stage. The funds will be drawn from Parish Council reserves and will not affect the precept.t was proposed by the Council
To fund stage 1 up to the value of £2,400, stage 2 up to the value of £2,400 and stage 3 up to the value of £14,400. The Council also committed to funding stage 4 up to the value of £14,400 subject to planning consent being granted.
This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and Seconded by Councillor Speed, with six members of the Council in agreement, and one member of the Council abstaining from voting.

The Council received an email form Ely Design Group who had made an offer to pay for half the cost of new nets for the AWP, unfortunately due to all the vandalism that has been happening down at the recreation ground the Council have not replaced any equipment. As it has been a number of weeks since the offer was made, Ely Design Group have now withdrawn their offer.

-o-o-2019-o-o-
2019 01 08 PC

There has again been 4 windows smashed down at the Pavilion, N & C Glass are coming out to replace 3 of the windows tomorrow and will measure up and come back to do the fourth as this was smashed after the measurements had been done. I have reported this to the Police and written to Sargent Mike Rabel to arrange a meeting between the Police and Stretham Parish Council, to find a way of moving forward and put residents' minds at rest. The Pirate ship at Ely Road Playpark has been covered in graffiti and the speakers have been stolen. I have reported this to the Police and contacted East Cambs to come and remove the Graffiti.

The Clerk has gone back to Playdale with regards to the Air wheel and this was their response; I have spoken to my manager regarding this one and she has said the maintenance instructions say the bearings can be inspected without dismantling. Should the bearing require replacement, components should be sought from Playdale.'This means that 'maintaining' the bearing is not required but monitoring them is a requirement to then determine when replacement is needed. This is what is deemed as the 'maintenance' of the unit. Therefore, I can only offer you the 25% discount on the part needed and the free weld. The Part you need is £617.79. However, because of the failed weld we are willing to offer you a 25% discount on this part and repair the weld free of charge in our Ulverston warehouse. This will mean our engineers collect the part from yourself and returning to site to re-fir once repaired (this part is chargeable as this isn't covered by the guarantees). The Council decided to go ahead with this repair.

The All-Weather Pitch quotes are now back, it will be £495.00 + VAT for the maintenance, if sand infill is required this will be charged at £160 per tonne. The sand is a periodic thing so after this infill it is not anticipated that any more will be required until 2020/2021. The cost of repairs after the vandalism will be £495.00 + VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Saunt to go ahead with the repairs and annual maintenance of the AWP.

To receive an update by Councillor Saunt on the Blue Plaque project
Councillor Saunt and Councillor Williams have been working together on the blue plaque project and gave an update to the Council. A list was drawn up of all the men who were of age and could serve in the war and this produced 100 names. Not all of those names were allocated. Only 25 names are currently on the War Memorial, however it is thought that there were more who left to fight. Using the 1911 census Councillor Saunt and Councillor William's have managed to located some of the streets that the men lived on, however they have not been able to located specific houses.

The Finance Sub–Committee met and discussed the Nursery project. At the meeting it was agreed that the current quotes that had been received were too high and the project could not go ahead at this price. Councillor Nuttall presented the recommendation from the Fiancé committee to the full Council who did agree that it was the right decision not to proceed with the proposals as drafted. Councillor Nuttall proposed a revised plan to the Council with a reduced scope. The Clerk sort advice from the Architects, who advised that looking at the revised plans they felt that even with the changes made it would not save enough money to make the project viable and the only way to do that is to reduce the floor space and that in turn would reduce the size of the business. With the estimates from the architects, quantity surveyor and multiple builders, who have all provided cost estimates that are substantially higher and would lead to an unacceptable high financial risk to the Council. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Murfitt, that the project could not be taken further due to the financial risk to the Council, even with the revised plans. The Council voted, with six Councillors in agreement and one against. Therefore, the Councils decision is to not take this project further.

APP/V0510/W/18/3209394 – Lazy Otter Meadows Caravan Park, Cambridge Road, Stretham. Proposed extension to Lazy Otter Meadows Caravan Park to allow for the siting of 34 static holiday/lodges together with environmental improvements. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of state against the decision of East Cambridgeshire District Council to refuse to grant planning permission. The Council made no further comments to this and let their previous comments stand

Wilburton Cricket Club sent a letter in to discuss the possibility of moving their Cricket training over to Stretham. This would involve putting up out Cricket nets in the All-Weather Pitch. These nets could then be used by residents as well. The Council asked the Clerk to ask Stretham Cricket club to come to the next Council meeting to do a presentation on how it would all work and give Councillors the opportunity to ask any questions.

An email was received regarding the state of Brook Lane, stating that there are a lot of ruts on the verge that is now causing large puddle. Brook Lane is used by a lot of people, including children walking to school and for the majority of the way they have to walk along the road. It also said that due to the Manor Farm development the amount of people using Brook Lane will only increase. The Council asked the Clerk to speak to SWCLT to see if there are any plans to improve Brook Lane with a path using the 106 money they have received from the development. The Clerk to also speak to Highways to see if they can do anything about the verge.

2019 02 05 PC
I have ordered 3 new bins for the recreation ground, 3 of them have been ripped off and stamped on, I have also reported this to the Police. I have found out today the one in Jubilee gardens has also been damaged, so I am waiting to find out if this need replacing.
I have attended a Feast meeting and have started booking the events.
I have met with Councillor Parish and Mark Rabel Sargent of Ely police station to discuss the anti-Social behaviour that has been happening in the village.

A quote has been received by Reed to complete the required repairs on Wakfield Way foot bridge the quote is for £470, it was proposed by Councillor Speed to go ahead with the repairs this was seconded by Councillor Bright, with the whole Council in agreement.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Work is still ongoing at site and there will soon be more houses ready to be signed over. Lot of people have now moved into phase 2.There is a lot of working happening with the Wilburton CLT and a public meeting has been arrange to show the proposed drawings.

An email was received from Stretham Sporting to ask if the Council had any intentions of putting CCTV up at the Pavilion and AWP to try and stop the vandalism. The Council decided that they would not be going down this avenue and having already met with the Police they hope this will now stop.

An email was received from a concerned resident of Short Road regarding the foul language that is used by the footballers who play on a Saturday. The Clerk to contact Stretham Sporting to ask them to address this issue.

2019 02 11
John Lee of AJ Lee Developments Ltd said he faced objections, protests and outright refusals from residents and councillors before winning consent to build homes at Littleport. “It’s a case of NIMBY (not in my back yard) because it was refused due to residents and a lack of support from parish councillors opposing the project,” he said.

Mr Lee first applied for planning permission to build 21 affordable houses in Back Lane, Littleport, in January 2014. However the original application was met with more than 100 letters of objection and 30 signatures on protests from The Station Road and Back Lane Residents' and Homeowners Association.
Mr Lee, who employs 40 workmen, says he faced similar controversy over 13 affordable houses in Witchford and a further 12 in Willingham. His company has also built eight affordable homes in Stretham and hopes to build 12 more in Isleham.
Mr Lee said: "I believe there's a great need for these affordables and all of these homes are being built for local people to rent or for shared ownership. I would have loved to get the chance to have a new house when I was young; now we can fulfil these opportunities and hopefully do young people a bit of good. "I provided work for as many as 40 local tradesmen including brickies and plumbers and we all work hard to deliver these types of houses, at a time when central Government is requesting thousands of affordable houses to be built. "I'm one of the only blokes in the area that builds complete affordable sites. They just wouldn't get built otherwise.
"My question is why are we getting so much opposition to achieve this? There seems to be a resistance to social/affordable housing across East Cambridgeshire because politicians don't want them. "The things that we've faced, you would not believe – meetings, arguments and opposition from many politicians. We've had similar problems in Witchford, too, where our fifth and latest project is under construction."
The houses in Littleport have been taken on by Cambridgeshire housing association the CHS Group. Mr Lee plans to build more affordable homes and is looking for sites within a 15 mile radius of Ely. (The Company built the houses in Sadler's Way)
…

2019 02 15
East Cambridgeshire District Council statement regarding 'Community-led Development. In 2015, the Council adopted a local plan that introduced policies that empowered communities to be more involved and lead on development in their area. The Council has recently been informed that whilst the plan is legally and procedurally correct, the only way our new plan can be adopted is if fundamental changes are made to some of the policies. The changes required include: deleting the policy for community-led development, despite this already being an agreed policy in the current local plan. https://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/Cambridgeshire/Ely/CB6/News/Local-News/321240-East-Cambridgeshire-District-Council-statement-regarding-the-emerging-Local-Plan

2019 03 05 PC
I have been in contact with Pam from Highways regarding Brooke Lane, the area is now on the list for improvement once the new budget comes in, in April. Pam is currently getting costs together to widen the overrun section to stop this happening as it is a mess. Part of the verge will be lost but if it is just put back it will only happen again. So once Pam has an idea of costs and what budgets are available, she will be able to see what can be done.

I have had an update with the Police, after we supplied the names of the people causing the vandalism and anti-social behaviour around the village, they have made home visits to all of them and spoken with them and their families, the Police seemed to think this went well and have informed them that if anything else happens then there will be consequences. The Police were confident that the message had been received and said that they got support from the families.

19/00182/FUL – 5 Chadwick Way, Stretham. Retrospective planning for garage conversion. The Council objected to this planning application. By taking away the garage, it takes away a parking space and in turn means the car will be parked on the street leading to congestion on the roads. This was proposed by Councillor Speed and seconded by Councillor Bright, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/00135/FUL – Gravel Farm Newmarket Road, Stretham. Proposed agricultural units. The Council made no objections to this planning application. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Bright, with the whole Council in agreement

An email was received from the WI. With it being the WI's centenary year, as well as the planter they are looking to install, they have also been inspired by Roger and Beryl's litter picking efforts around the village and are planning to do a litter pick. They have also asked if there is anything else the Council could suggest for them to get involved with. The Council suggested maybe some more planting around the village, with the Council supplying some bulbs and plants.

An email was received by Pam at Cambridgeshire County Council to say the grass verge outside 14 Reads Street has been replaced with stones, she asked if the \council would like this tarmacked or the grass being replaced. Another email was also received regarding another part of the verge on reads street. The resident stated that the verge is cut up, making it very slippery when getting out of the car and that there is constantly dog foul on the verge which has been walked into their house and car. The Council discussed the Read street verge at great length and felt that the verge is in keeping with the village and a nice aspect to the street. The Council views remain the same that they would like to keep the verge and that they take responsibility for the cutting of it, even though some residents do already cut it themselves. The Clerk to ask Pam to reinstate the verge back to grass.

A couple of letters were received from residents of Reads Street, regarding the parking. Residents were sold the houses and, on the deeds, it stated that as you look from the school down Reads Street no cars should be parked on the right-hand side. Over the last few weeks a number of cars have been parked on the right-hand side, it is thought that the cars may be staying at the air B & B. The Clerk to pop round and speak to the owners to advise the that cars should not be parked on this side.

Councillor Murfitt reported that the bench at the bottom of Short Road, has a large nail sticking up and needs a slate repairing. Councillor Murfitt will go down and make the nail safe and the Clerk to ask Kev Bell to repair the slate.

2019 04 02 PC
To receive a quote for the Village Map and discuss the Village Guide
Councillor Parish informed the Council that the Youth Club again has be granted funding to produce the Village Guide, it was put to the Council that could the Village guide once produced be delivered along with the Village Newsletter. Councillor Williams proposed for this to go ahead and Seconded with \councillor Saunt with the whole Council in agreement. The Clerk presented the quote for the Village Map, it would be £500 if we did not include items such as benches and bins and £600 with these included. It was proposed by Councillor Speed to go ahead with the £600 version and seconded by Councillor Taylor, 7 of the Councillors were in agreement with 2 against. The Clerk will go ahead with the £600 map, Councillor Nuttall asked that we make sure that we have publication rights to the map and be able to update it.

To discuss setting up a working party to look at the prospect of a new Village community building Councillor Taylor said she had been approached to set up a working party to look at knocking down the Pavilion and building a new Community Room facility on the recreation ground. After speaking with a builder, it was suggested that this would be a cheaper option as all of the toilet and other facilities are already in place. After much debate from the Council it was decided that the recreation ground would not be the best place for a community facility as it would take up too much of the recreation ground and the parking would not be adequate enough. It was also said that there are better potential sites in the village. Councillor Nuttall also told the Council that when the Finance Committee looked at this project there was not enough Capital Funding around to fund the project, which in turn would mean that the Council would have to get a mortgage for the project and this would be too much of a financial strain on the village. It was agreed by the Council that if capital funding becomes available then this project would be looked at again.

Amenities Working Party – Eleanor's field will be soon be ready to have the grass and seed set. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Saunt to buy a flailer for Eleanor's filed so we can cut it, it was also suggested that the Council approach Stretham Charities to see if they would like to pay half the cost and then it can be used on the allotments as well. The Council decided that a £1,500 budget be put on this and if the Charities do not wish to pay half then the Council will go ahead and purchase. The whole Council was in agreement

2019 05 07
STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY 7th MAY 2019 AT 7PM ***[These were published online in May 2022]***
Selection

1
Councillor Parish (Chair) gave an over view on what had been happening over the last year and the projects the Council have been working on.
5. To view the Annual Accounts (unaudited) of Stretham Parish Council to 1st May 2019
The Audit report was shown to Councillors, these could not be signed off as they have not been audited by the internal auditor. The RFO to get this done and then present to the Council for approval.
6. To receive Stretham Charity Trustees Report and Accounts
Gross income has gone up, £11,669 has been given out in grants with £2,680 been given in education grants.
8. To receive reports from village organisations
Constable Mark Rabel was in attendance, he let the Village know that with staff shortages PCSO's are now not seen as regularly in the Villages. With Policing changes over the last 2 years, there is currently 2 PCSO officers and 8 PCs to cover the area.
The WI were in attendance. With 27 members currently the WI have had some very interesting talks and visited some lovely places.
Natalie Andrews from the Church came to give an overview on the last year at St James.
[There was not report from the Community Land Trust]
9. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest
A resident raised the issue of speeding down the A10 and along Cambridge Road. In 23 years, 2 cars have landed in their garden and had numerous cars hit the fence and drive off.

2019 05 07 PC

19/00479/FUL – Site South of 17 Short Road, Stretham. Construction of 1 four-bedroom, detached dwelling. The Council objected to this application, under the ground of over development of the site, the building is higher than the surrounding properties therefore it would not be in keeping with the others. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Wright, with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor Saunt did not vote due to her declaration of interest in this application.

To receive correspondence
A letter was received to inform Stretham Parish Council that the War Memorial at St James Church yard has been awarded listed building status. The Clerk to find out if this can be done for the memorial in the Cemetery.

A couple of emails were received with regards to Manor Farm play park. The black matting is still coming away, there are weeds growing into the paly park and the bin needs emptying. The Clerk to speak to Racheal Watts to find out if this is going to be rectified.

An invitation was received by the SWCLT to invite Councillors to their AGM, which is to be held on Monday 13th May at 7pm at the Parish Rooms in Stretham.

An email was received by a concerned resident regarding an accident that occurred on the Stretham Roundabout on the 8th April. A car hit the roundabout taking out a sign and landing in the resident's front garden. The Clerk has been informed that a meeting is to take place on the 24th May with the Highways department and Councillor Bill Hunt to see if any safety measures need to be put in place. The Clerk was asked to put into the Newsletter what the Councils responsibilities are with regards to the Highways and what Cambridgeshire County Council, Highways department are responsible for.

2019 05 14 ES

'Tantamount to inhabiting a parallel universe where the normal rules do not apply' says council chief of Mayor Palmer after he hands £54,000 a year part time job to Charles Roberts

Mayor James Palmer is under fire over the appointment of former East Cambs Council leader Charles Roberts to a £56,400 a year part-time job with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CAPCA). Mr Roberts stood down earlier this month as both council leader and deputy mayor of CAPCA but is now back as strategic advisor.

But Cllr Bridget Smith, leader of South Cambs District Council and a board member of CAPCA, is angry she knew nothing in advance of the appointment. "It's difficult to know what to say other than I am a board member of the combined authority and this is the very first I have heard of this," she said. "I've not seen an advert, job description, short list or been consulted with in any way about your public money being spent on this role." She said: "Yet again I find myself learning about a contentious recruitment to a highly paid job on the authority, of which I am a board member, from Twitter. It's tantamount to inhabiting a parallel universe where the normal rules of consultation and engagement do not apply."

And Lib Dem Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, chair of CAPCA's scrutiny committee, said: "I am really shocked by this. CAPCA is already facing serious criticism for being East Cambridgeshire centric and employing only the mayor's friends. This will fuel those concerns. Not what those who supported CAPCA being set up were promised."

Mayor Palmer said: "Charles' experience means he will be able to hit the ground running and the quality of his work and advice will be invaluable me. He is someone in whom I have absolute faith and trust to do an exceptional job." The mayor said the job was included in CAPCA's "approved staffing structure" and the new reduced budget of £4.5 million was lower than for most other combined authorities. He said Mr Roberts also had "a wide-ranging professional background including as an entrepreneur and start-up investor in sectors including food and farming. "He runs a consultancy company primarily serving the legal profession.".

Mayor Palmer said the strategic advisor role will require hours equivalent to four days' work per week, on a pro rata salary of £70, 514. For his £1,100 a week pay cheque Mr Roberts will focus on helping the mayor to deliver 12 of the projects laid out in CAPCA's business plan.

One of those is housing and apart from growing the delivery of Community Land Trusts, Mr Roberts will be tasked with working up a scheme to deliver the '£100,000 house'. That is a scheme where by the mayor's land capture value policy of buying up land cheaply can be used to build homes for first time buyers. If planning is granted the mayor could use some of the land being sought for CLT schemes at Wilburton and Kennett to be used for his new '£100,000 homes' initiative. People would buy the homes through normal channels with the only string being that the discounted price would be reflected in any profit they might make.

Mr Roberts said: "My performance will be judged on how I can help the authority deliver on these schemes and meet the ambitions we have for sustainable economic growth for the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough."

2019 06 04 PC

Under the Freedom of information Act, I have received a request from a resident for the written notes I took in the last meeting and a copy of the typed minutes. I have informed the resident that

once the minutes are written my notes are destroyed as per regulations and that they will be able to view all minutes on the Stretham Parish Council website.

A site visit has taken place down at the roundabout on the A10. There will not be anything 'structural' taking place but some cosmetic things covered by general maintenance –

1. Clean the gullies
2. Sweeping the roundabout area
3. Repairing a damaged sign post
4. Refreshing the roundabout junction lines and also putting SLOW's down at each approach
5. Cut back the foliage around the signs
6. Also we will side-out the section of path beside 1 & 3 to make it a bit wider and also put in a few stick in marker posts along that verge.

In regards to the roundabout issues County and district Councillor Hunt has informed the residents he is willing to have a public meeting to discuss issues and the A10 upgrade.

I have spoken to Pam regarding the lorries and tractors going too fast round the bend out of the village on Newmarket Road. Pam has informed me that she will report this to Road Safety, however we have the village gates with the corex sign as well as speed limit signs and further round there is the VAS sign, so not sure what else could be done. However, Road Safety may have some more ideas, but Pam has said this is a major A road so villagers must accept its going to be busy and large vehicles will use it. Pam has also advised that she will get the direction sign leading out of Stretham towards the roundabout on Newmarket Road fixed. With regards to putting double yellow lines down at the junction on Green End, Pam has advised that this would need to be done through an LHI request.

In regards to the Zebra crossing Pam has advised the following; Stretham Parish Council had the Zebrites installed the other year to make the crossing more visible. Pam has asked the question about this before and there is not much else that can be done. The visibility either side would have been sufficient to be approved in order for the crossing to be installed in the first place. So, there is not much more that can be done. It must also be point out that a zebra crossing does not give pedestrians the right of way they are still liable to wait until its clear or a vehicle has stopped and not assume because they are on the crossing that a vehicle will stop. It may be an idea to point this out to your parish via any local newsletters etc that you distribute.

Two members of the public were present: Mr Terry Peacock (Captain of the Stretham Bowls Club) and Mr Ken Dodson. Mr Peacock voiced his concerns to the Council, regarding the safety of Bowls Club members at risk of injury, from footballs constantly coming onto the Bowls lawn. Members were also advised of the damage being caused to the hedging, by the football club members retrieving the balls from the Bowls Club. Members were reminded, they did agree to resolve this problem in the past, but no action has been taken. The Chairman confirmed despite best efforts, the Council were having difficulty in finding a suitable contractor to erect the poles and netting. Mr Peacock provided Members with information relating to two suppliers of suitable netting which could be installed, to resolve this problem (M H Goals – Ballstop System and Stadia Sports - Socketed Ball Stop Netting). The Chairman thanked Mr Peacock and Mr Dodson for their attendance at the meeting and agreed to table this item for consideration at the July Council meeting, once the Clerk had an opportunity to further investigate and cost the two systems.

The finance, Governance and Personal Committee met and reviewed the Terms of reference. It was put forward to the Council to take out the line that states that all Finance, Governance and personal meetings should be advertised on the Council appointed notice board. The line regarding the proposed Nursery project was also removed, due to this project no longer taking place.

To discuss and approve extra hours for the RFO

The RFO left the room.
Councillor Parish informed the Council that in order for the RFO to get all the Finance work up to date, Sandra has worked an additional 20 hours this month. Councillor Parish proposed that the Council Pay Sandra for this additional work. The Council discussed this and it was proposed by Councillor Taylor to pay the additional hours and this was seconded by Councillor Wright with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor Parish went on to inform the Council that she feels due to the work load the RFO should be given an additional 2 hours a week, raising her working hours from 6 a week to 8 a week. The Council agreed, this was proposed by Councillor Speed and seconded by Councillor Saunt, with the whole Council in agreement. The 8 hours will commence with immediate effect. The RFO was invited back into the room and informed of the decisions made by the Council.

The Clerk informed the Council that Littleport, mens and children's teams, Haddenham Children's team and Soham's men's team have asked if they can use Stretham for training and football matches. Councillor Taylor informed the Council that a new Stretham men's team has now been put together and she advised that allowing all teams to use the pitch would cause over usage and ruin the pitch. Council Taylor advised the Council that she thought it would be best to allow only Soham team to rent the pitch. This was discussed and length by the Council and they agreed to Councillor Taylor's recommendations. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Speed with the whole Council in agreement.

To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. 2 new houses have been handed over to the CLT, with 1 more to be handed over by the end of the month and 2 by the end of July. There are currently 72 people on the waiting list for houses.

It was proposed by the Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee to increase the cemetery burial charges. It was suggested to raise the fee for non-residents to £400 and residents to £200. To be in line with other Councils. After much discussion it was proposed by Councillor Roberts that the resident price and for people who have a connection to the Village should remain at £70.00 and for non-residents to be set at £200. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor; the whole Council took a vote with 7 Councillors for the proposal and 1 against.

Environmental Health contacted the Council regarding the Hog Roast at the Feast, a few complaints were made regarding to food poisoning. Environmental Health went to visit the vendor and were satisfied that the Hog Roast was not responsible and no further action was taken.

Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee – All minutes are now up to date on the website. The website has also had a software update and Councillors details have been updated. It was noted that the Newsletter has not been put on the website since February, the Clerk to chase Laura.

Feast Sub – Committee – The Feast had another successful year, with the return of the Dog Show. This year the dog show made £350 which will go to Wood Green

2019 07 02 PC
19/37 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 4th June 2019
I have met with Racheal Watts down at Manor Farm, we have had some more grass handed over to add to the gardening contract
I have the quotes back for changing the lock at the Pavilion. Ely Lock Smiths have quoted £200.00 + VAT however they did not want to meet me and went out and looked round the Pavilion. Rapid Lock have quoted £865.00 + VAT, this will include new door handles as a lot of them are broken and one key for all the locks. The 3rd Locksmith failed to send over a quote. The Council asked the Clerk to go back to the locksmiths and get exactly the same items quoted. The Council agreed a limit of £865 for the locks and asked Clerk to go head and get the locks changed, this was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor speed.

The first draft of the village map has arrived, there are a few errors so Councillor Parish and myself are going to sit down and go through it and I hope to have it ready for the next meeting. I have reported the pot hole outside of the Post Office to Pam at Highways, there is also a broken Manhole cover just outside of the Cemetery Pam is going to have a look at that as well. I have also arranged for the Berry Close sign to be repaired.

19/38 Public participation

Two members of the Bowls Club were present to get an update on the netting, unfortunately the quotes were not yet in, the Council agreed that this would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

A resident was in attendance to discuss his planning application 19/00780/FUL – 8B Wilburton Road. The application is for Culvert of existing open ditch and erection of brick pillars and metal gates over drive way, in addition to a pedestrian access gate. It was explained that the reason for wanting to do this, is due to rubbish collecting into the ditch, it also is a hazard as somebody tripped and fell into the open ditch causing a sprained wrist. The residents have cleaned the ditch out on many occasions as if this is not done the water then backs up. An application was made to East Cambs to do the work and this was granted, the pipes were purchased and work was ready to begin. East Cambs then informed them that a full planning application had to be submitted. Along wit the work to the ditch the application also includes a set of gates to be added to the front of the driveway.

19/39 To receive a presentation from Laragh Homes regarding Phase 5 of Manor Farm and the proposed Doctors surgery.

Laragh Homes were in attendance at the meeting, they came and gave a presentation on the development at Manor Farm. This included going through the consultation period, looking at what residents wanted from the site and looking at the different types of houses that are on site.

They also presented to the Council what Phase 4 will look like, along with houses this will include a Village green and the Doctors surgery. The practise will not only house a surgery there will also be room for other medical services.

After the presentation it was brought to Laragh Homes attention that some Councillors and members of the public were concerned about parking at the surgery. There would be room for 20 parking spaces as the plans currently stand, it was felt that this would not be sufficient for doctors and patients and would lead to parking on the streets. Laragh Homes took on board all of the comments and said they would go away and relook at it and take advice.

19/47 To consider planning applications

19/00780/FUL – 8B Wilburton Road. Culvert of existing open ditch and erection of brick pillars and metal gates, in addition to a pedestrian gate. The Council objected to this planning on the following grounds. By having 450 ml pipes instead of 750 ml, the pipes would clog up causing a flooding issue. There is confusion as to who owns the ditch, it was proposed that actually the resident only owns half of the ditch, therefore putting in gates would be an encroachment. By filling in the ditch this would cause an ecological impact on wildlife. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts to object to this planning, this was seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/00811/FUL – 22 Akeman Close, Stretham. Two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extension. The Council made no objection to this application. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor Saunt did not vote as she declared an interest in this application.

19/48 To receive planning application decisions

19/00509/FUL – 10D Reads Street, Stretham. Single storey flat roof extension to infill existing courtyard. This application was rejected.

19/49 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT

3 houses are due to be handed over by the end of July and have already been allocated. The next plots will be due around September.

19/50 Finance – To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income

1. Land Tenancy Agreements

Red Fen Road, Little Thetford - draft tenancy agreed with new tenant (Charlotte Mitchell) – to commence on 1st August 2019 (provided gate has been installed) @ £450 per annum.

Mr Carey – have received no response from email communication sent to him. Letter now sent in the hope of receiving a response. RFO requires assistance in respect of the actual property address of this land and preferably, an OS reference. Councillor Roberts stated that a contract was drawn up using the solicitors Browns, it was proposed by Councillor Speed to contact the solicitors to find out, this as seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole Council in agreement.

2019 07 13

ONE man believes it is only a matter of time before a fatal traffic collision takes place in his village. Research consultant Edward James Bass recently moved to Stretham, but has quickly become very concerned at the numbers of heavy goods vehicles passing through the narrow streets each hour, as the village is being used as a rat run during the A14 closure. He lives near the bend on the A1123 in Stretham, near Green End, and like many residents, he is worried that by using the village as an alternative route for A14 traffic instead of the Ely bypass, a collision will happen sooner rather than later. Mr Bass previously worked for one of the "big four" tech companies, and is using his social media expertise to try and capture the attention of councillors and the media, but so far, he has had little luck. However, the village is hoping that will change on Tuesday, when East Cambridgeshire District Council member for Stretham, Bill Hunt, will attend a public forum to address the issue, alongside a representative for Highways England. Mr Bass outlined the concerns of the village and why Google's algorithm may be to blame for the traffic crisis. He said: "Something should have been done about this by now. I've spoken to our councillor, Bill Hunt, and he's simply assured me that while he's concerned about the issue, it will at least be solved once the A14 reopens. "But this overlooks the bigger problem – the fact people are using this tiny road as an alternative route while the Ely bypass is empty. "The algorithm on Google Maps has altered the route from the A14 so this is now the main alternative, and I refuse to believe that simply opening the A14 again will solve this problem." Mr Bass said he lives close to the most dangerous bend on the road. "You have 30 to 40 HGVs passing hourly in both directions, and as it's a tiny road, a collision is likely," he said. "I'd only understand this being a preferred route if the Ely bypass didn't exist. And again, we could wait for the A14 to reopen to stop this problem – but will that stop Google? "This has already been discussed at a Stretham Parish Council meeting, that 15 residents turned up to." Stretham is far from the only Cambridgeshire village that has faced traffic problems recently. Earlier this year, residents in Earith staged a mock protest carrying coffins down the High Street, to signify how the HGVs using their narrow roads have polluted the air, ruined the infrastructure and contributed to the "death of a village". But Mr Bass says that the issue in Stretham is different. He added: "What happened to Earith is awful, especially because they had no clear alternative route for traffic. But we do. There's a bypass that vehicles can use as an A14 alternative instead. "Having vehicles zoom down these narrow streets doesn't benefit the people in the area, or the industry here. The whole village needs a traffic overhaul, as this doesn't help a growing community." The Stretham traffic issues meeting will take place at 7.30pm this Tuesday at St James' Church in the village 2019 07 13 CN

2019 07 18

SPEED OF VEHICLES THROUGH VILLAGE TO BE MONITORED

VILLAGERS are taking their own traffic calming measures. Following a village meeting at St James Church on Tuesday, residents of Stretham say they are eager to prevent an accident happening in their village, after a major traffic increase following diversions from the A14 upgrade. Attendees at the meeting showed interest in a voluntary speedwatch, monitoring the speeds of passing motorists in the village, while the parish council is applying for funding to get a sign that records these speeds. However, they are still looking for more help to restrict heavy goods vehicles from entering their narrow streets, as well as a speed limit reduction and other traffic calming measures. Resident Edward Bass, who lives near the bend on the A1123 near Green End in Stretham, spoke to the News about the developments from the meeting, and what he feels still needs to be done. He said: "I'm happy that there was a big turnout, and hopefully the people happy to volunteer in the speedwatch will show that we want to take action to get things done, not just moan

about these problems. “Councillor Bill Hunt repeated his points about the A14 upgrade being a fix-all solution for traffic through the village. Our point is that this in addition to traffic calming measures and/or reduced speed limits would absolutely guarantee a solution. “The A14 upgrade isn’t a magic wand that will immediately fix all of the traffic problems. “I also understand that a speed limit reduction is a big ask for drivers. It would annoy me too if I was asked to slow down. But we urgently need it, so I don’t want the next report in the paper to be about an accident here. It’s crazy out there, and we need a solution.” Mr Bass will be working with the Cambridgeshire County Council Highways division to communicate community issues, while Highways staff will visit the village to see the issues first hand. “In September, it is hoped there will be a follow-up meeting feeding back from this, and planning the next steps. Additionally Mr Bass wants both Cllr Hunt and South East Cambridgeshire MP Lucy Frazer to write to local haulage companies to ask them to use an alternative route via the Ely bypass, which he believes is their duty as local representatives. Cllr Hunt, Conservative councillor for the Stretham ward on East Cambridgeshire District Council, outlined his plans to the News. He said: “I’ve been working hard to get the A14 back in good condition, so we have five highways between Cambridge and Huntingdon – and my question is, why would people want to drive through Stretham when that’s open? “When the A14 is up and running, I will attempt to make the A1223 a B road, and impose a HGV limit, but I remain convinced that there will be less traffic when the A14 is done.” In the short term, work on new signs at the Stretham roundabout between the A10 and the A1123 will begin in ten days’ time – a direct result of an accident earlier this year when a car ended up in a woman’s garden. “I’m committed to make Stretham safer, but I don’t have any fish or loaves to quickly ease this problem,” added Cllr Hunt. “But there are 2,700 people working on a £1.5 billion upgrade to the A14, which is running ahead of schedule. If that isn’t progress, what is?” CN

2019 09 06 PC

19/59 Update from County and District Councillor

Councillor Hunt attended a meeting at the Church on the 16th July to discuss traffic issues in the Village. Councillor Hunt felt the meeting was very hostile and was made to feel like he had a hidden agenda. Councillor Hunt will not put himself in this position again and will work with the Parish Council in any way he can to relieve the issues.

19/60 Public participation

A number of residents were in attendance at the meeting, this included members of the new Stretham Speed Watch group. The first Speed Watch has taken place with 31 drivers being caught speeding in one hour. It was also noted a number of container lorries are coming from Soham using Newmarket Road. The Speed Watch group had a number of questions for the Council, including who cleans the road signs, Councillor Bright informed everyone that this needed to be reported to the Highways department who are responsible for this. Councillor Bright also informed everyone that only half the works had been carried out at the roundabout and more is yet to be completed. The Speed watch group asked if the village gates could be painted white and to see if the Council could help with purchasing Speed watch signs and to find an answer machine, Councillor Parish asked the quotes be obtained and sent to the Clerk and it would be added to the next Council agenda. The group currently have 13 active members, but would welcome anyone who has an interested in joining The Council have also put in for a Local Highways Grant, if successful this will be spent on new speed signs which will be placed on Newmarket Road.

Another resident was also in attendance to discuss planning application 19/00780/FUL – 8B Wilburton Road, Stretham. It was stated that the gates, had been removed from the application. The resident also stated that they had, had written consent to say that they do own the ditch

19/63 To review and appoint a New Parish Councillor

One application was received for the post from Catherine Clerk, it was proposed by Councillor Roberts to accept the application, this was seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement. The Clerk to issue New Councillor paper work.

19/43-19/53

Minutes from a previous meeting were wrongly included. There are no minutes from 19/63 to 19/77

2019 10 01 PC

19/78 To receive apologies and approval of absences

19/81 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council held on the 3rd September 2019

The RFO and I have been down to the AWP, there is a patch in the Astro that has been burnt. It is a patch to the left as you go in the gate. I have met with DEM sport and obtained the quote for the netting on top of the AWP. I have been in touch with Sargent Mark Rabel, he has given me a copy of the ICO guide to CCTV, which sets out the Data Protection act on how to use CCTV and storing images. He advised that if CCTV was to be put The Council would need to put up signs letting people know CCTV is being used and why, you must be able to provide image within 40 days to anyone you have recorded and you can charge up to £10 for this information, you must share images with the authorities such as the Police if requested and you must only store images as long as you need them. Mark also suggested talking to Soham and Littleport Parish Councils as they have CCTV. The Council asked the Clerk to see If Littleport or Soham Parish Council could come and inform the Council of how they set up their CCTV and what it involved. I have reported the loose manhole cover down at the bottom of the high street and I have reported the pot hole outside of the Post Office. The RFO and I have a meeting with Maureen to discuss bookings of the Parish Rooms and Pavilion and to discuss how payments are processed. A meeting has been set up with Laura to dis cuss the Newsletter, this will take place on Wednesday 9th October, 7.30pm at the Pavilion. After an issue last week with locating a pre – paid burial plot from 2005, due to the records not being kept accurately, I have arranged to meet with Rosie from Sutton Parish Council to discuss how they record burials and pre – purchased graves. A visual map may be the way forward.

19/83 To discuss the email received from Stretham Sporting

An email was received from Stretham Sporting, stating that they had over paid on their last session invoice and were charged for 5 teams playing when in fact there were only 3 teams playing. The Clerk and RFO informed the Council that we were not informed that there were less teams playing. Therefore, Stretham Sporting would like a refund on the £600 over payment. Councillor Roberts explained that the agreement when the Council took over the Pavilion and AWP was that the Council would pay for half the running costs and that the other half would be paid for by the clubs using the facility. Due to the fact the Council was not made aware of the lower number of teams, Councillor Roberts proposed the £300 should be refunded to Stretham Sporting (as a credit against the current years charges) as a goodwill gesture, this was seconded by Councillor Wright with the whole Council in agreement. The RFO to contact Stretham Sporting to inform them of the Councils decision.

Stretham also expressed their concern regarding the broken goal in the AWP and the amount of vandalism and anti – social behaviour that is happening down at the Recreation ground. The Clerk to inform Stretham Sporting that new goasl and nets have been purchased and as soon as they arrive, they will be put up. Councillor Murfittt will go down and remove the dangerous goal. Once they are in place the goals will be left out, however the nets will only be used by people who rent the AWP, to stop them being damaged. The Clerk to also let them know that the Police have been made aware of what is happening at the Recreation ground and they have stated that if anyone should witness vandalism or anti – social behaviour then it needs to be reported to 101 for them to be able to do anything about it.

Stretham Sporting also asked for the AWP to be locked up when not being used, unfortunately when the Grant was given for the AWP it was on the understanding that it would not be locked and would be accessible for everyone to use.

The Council agreed that moving forward the Council will continue to pay half the running costs of the Pavilion and the other half will be divided equally by any teams that will be using the facilities.

19/85 To discuss the Grant given to the SWCLT for the Doctors surgery

When the Grant was first discussed it was agreed that it would come out of the reserves. The Finance Sub – Committee have since looked into this and propose that the money should actually come out of the CIL money received. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/90 To review the proposed budget
All Councillors were given a copy of the proposed budget, agreed at the last Finance, Governance & Personnel Committee meeting. The RFO gave a projection of costs to the end of this financial year. Based on this projection, it is likely there will be a deficit of £7,625 which will need to be drawn from Reserves. Councillor Nuttall proposed to accept the budget, this was seconded by Councillor Roberts with the whole Council in agreement.

19/92 To consider planning applications
19/01323/FUM – Erection of a new B8 storage and distribution building, additional parking spaces and associated drainage and landscaping works. 19 Ely Road, Stretham. The Council made no objections to this application; however, they would like to see better screening/landscaping on the North and East side, facing Ely and the A10. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Clerk

19/93 To receive Planning application decisions
19/00780/FUL – Culvert of existing open ditch. 8B Wilburton Road, Stretham.
19/01148/TPO – Tree preservation order at 10C Reads Street.
S/0559/17/OL – Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield site. Outline planning for up to 6,500 dwellings including up to 600 residential institutional units, business, retail, community, leisure and sports uses, a Hotel; new primary school and secondary school; green open spaces including parks, ecological areas, woodlands; principal new accesses from the A10and other points of access.
20/94 To receive an update on SWCLT
2 more houses are coming over, in March there will be 4 1-bedroom bungalows coming over to the trust with 2 of these already being allocated. There is a meeting to take place to discuss the Doctors surgery development.

2019 10
Conflict over Wilburton homes plan; SWCLT says community amenities will be built as early as possible … in commercial developments are left to the end – Fenscene

2019 10 15
Plans for Community Hall drawn up by Architects – mp7310

2019 10 28
Masters Logistical purchased its existing premises and an additional adjacent 3.5 acres of land to increase its operations with support of £2.5million funding package from Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking. The business, based in Stretham, transports goods to and from businesses across 17 European countries, has bought the site it previously rented for 15 years. They now plan to build a new warehouse and hire an additional three members of staff and expects to increase its annual turnover by 10 per cent to £6 million in the next year – 2019 10 28

2019 11 05 PC
19/106 To discuss Stretham Sportings appeal for a refund
The Clerk read out the email received from Stretham Sporting. The email stated that they were not happy with the goodwill gesture the Council made of £300 towards their over payment made last year. Council Roberts explained to the Council that when the Council took over the Pavilion, it was agreed that the Council would cover 50% of the running costs and that the over 50% would be covered by the teams using the facility. Therefore, the amount would be split between all the teams that are playing that year. Last year Stretham Sporting did not inform the Council that fewer teams were playing and paid the invoice that was sent to them. The Council agreed that they would not refund the whole £600, but would stick to the £300 goodwill gesture that was made. The Clerk to inform Stretham Sporting.

19/107 To receive an update on CCTV

The Clerk has been in contact with Littleport and Soham Parish Councils who have both put up CCTV in their parishes. Both Councils have invited Stretham Parish Council to visit and have a look at the equipment they have and to discuss the legal requirements. The Clerk to set up a meeting which
Councillor Nuttall, Councillor Williams and Councillor Wright will attend.

19/108 To discuss the Play Area Risk Assessments
Councillor Parish Read out parts of the risk assessment to Councillors and Councillors were given time to read the assessment. The RFO explained to the Council that the insurance states that in order for the insurance to be valid at the very least monthly inspections of the play areas need to take place. To get ECDC to do this would cost £900 a year. Councillor Roberts noted that the monthly check would probably be to cover the Public Liability insurance and not have anything to do with the Play equipment. Councillor Nuttall has looked through the insurances and noted there are a number of items requiring clarification from the insurers. This matter will be referred to the December FGPC meeting. Cllr Roberts asked the RFO to clarify if the inspections are required under the Contents or Public Liability section of the insurance. This item will be put on the agenda for the January meeting to receive the feedback.

19/114 To discuss the hours of the RFO (due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, members of the Public will be asked to leave the meeting at this point)
The RFO was asked to leave the meeting at this point.
Councillor Parish explained to the Council that the RFO has currently been working overtime to catch up on everything that needs completing and has done 16 hours overtime, it was put to the Council that she should be paid this overtime. Councillor Parish also informed that the RFO requires more hours due to the work load, the Council discussed this request and agreed to the additional hours taking the RFO from 8 hours to 12, this will be reviewed at the June Finance and Governance Sub – Committee meeting in June 2020. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/115 To consider planning applications
19/00811/FUL – 22 Akeman Close, Stretham. Two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions. An amendment was received regarding this application, the amendment involves the reduction in depth of first floor elevation. The Council made no objections to this application. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Speed, with the Council in full agreement. Councillor Saunt abstained from voting due to a declaration of interest.
19/01497/FUL – Stowbridge Solar Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham. Installation of a replacement inverter and storage container. The Council made no objections to this planning. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement.
19/116 To receive planning application decisions

19/01188/FUL – 11 Newmarket Road, Stretham. Increase in height of boundary fence from 1.5m to 1.8m Retrosepctive.
19/01264/FUL – Site south of 14 Brook Lane, Stretham. Erection of a new 3-bedroom bungalow with integral single garage and associated driveway, drainage and landscaping.

19/117 To receive an update on the progress of SWCLT
There has been progress on the new Doctors surgery, work is continuing with the NHS and the design have been agreed. There will be 4 business units to let and possibly 2 offices in the Doctors surgery. 4 bungalows are due in March and 2 of these have been allocated.

19/120 To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees
Amenities Working Party It was requested that the village benches are painted and next financial year it is put in the budget to purchase additional benches in the cemetery This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole council in agreement.

2019 11 05
Spuds spilt on road as trailer overturns. Stretham bypass was completely shut after a tractor trailer overturned and spilt potatoes all over the road. Traffic was diverted through Stretham High Street which caused additional delays before the A10 was opened at around midday. There were no reported injuries – 2019 11 05

2019 12 03 PC - selection
19/127
I wrote to Stretham Sporting to inform them that the Council will not be refunding the full £600 but has made a goodwill gesture of £300. Stretham Sporting said they were extremely disappointed and find it really sad that the Council are refusing to acknowledge its own error and are keeping 3300 of their money raised from players subs and their own fundraising. They are now going to seek legal advice before responding further and will inform parents of the Councils response.

19/131 To consider planning applications:
19/01573/FUL – 49 – 51 Station Road, Wilburton. Change of use of a vehicle dismantling premise to B1 light industrial/office use. The Council made no comments.
19/01598/FUL – 1 Old Orchard Lane, Stretham. Erection of 1 Summer house, 1 x Green House, 2 x Sheds and associated works in a residential garden. No objections were made to this application, this was proposed Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Taylor with the whole Council in agreement.
19/132 To receive planning application decisions:
19/01497/FUL – Stowbridge Solar Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham. Installation of a replacement inverter and storage container. This application has been approved.
19/01440/FUL – 5 Ashe Place, Berry Close, Stretham. Erection of new porch to the side of the property, move patio doors, alterations to rear window and internal alterations. This application has been approved.
18/01338/FUL – Land South of 1 to 4 Stowbridge Cottages, Green End, Stretham. Proposed detached dwelling and double garage. This application has been approved.
19/00811/FUL – 22 Akeman Close, Stretham. Two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions. This application has been approved.
19/133 To receive an update on the progress of SWCLT Councillor Parish attended the Wilburton open event and had a look at the plans. Councillor Parish said she was impressed with the amount of open green space.
The next Parish Council Meeting is on Tuesday 7th January at 7pm at
the Parish Rooms

2019 12 03 Council meeting reported in Newsletter for January 2020
Parish Council News
The Council met on Tuesday the 3rd December. Here are some of the highlights…….
The Council considered the following planning applications;
19/01598/FUL – 1 Old Orchard Lane, Stretham. Erection of one summer House, one green house, 2 sheds and associated works in a residential garden. The Council made no objections to this application.
19/01573/FUL – 49 – 51 Station Road, Wilburton. Change of use of a vehicle dismantling premise to B1 light industrial/office use. The Council made no comment to this application.
The Following applications have been approved;
19/01497/FUL – Stowbridge Solar Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham. Installation of a replacement inverter and storage container.
19/01440/FUL – 5 Ash Place, Berry Close, Stretham. Erection of new porch to the side of the property, move patio doors, alterations to rear window and internal alterations.
18/01338/FUL – Land South of 1 to 4 Stowbridge Cottages, Green End, Stretham. Proposed detached dwelling and double garage.

19/00811/FUL – 22 Akeman Close, Stretham. Two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions.
The Council was saddened to receive the resignation of Councillor Bright. Councillor Bright has been an active member of the Council contributing to many projects including Eleanor's Field, The Feast and the Farmers Markets. The Council would like to thank Councillor Bright for all of his hard work. He will be missed on the Council.
The Clerk and the gardening contractor have spent some time in the Topsy and Tim play park and the cemetery footpath looking at the trees. Two of the trees in the play park have a lot of Ivy growing up them and a lot of dead wood. These trees will have all of the ivy removed and will be cut down due to the amount of dead wood on them making them dangerous. The Recreation Ground Sub – Committee will be looking at suitable trees to plant in their place. The tree down the cemetery path will be having some work done to it, including reducing the crown and removing all the dead wood.
As reported in the last Newsletter the Finance and Governance Sub –Committee has prepared the Budget for the next financial year. At the Council meeting in November Councillors were given the opportunity to look through the budget and the Amenities Sub – Committee submitted some costs for works that need completing. The RFO went away and added these costs and a revised budget was given to Councillors to read in preparation for the December meeting. At the December meeting the final budget was approved by all Councillors.
A member of the Speed Watch group was in attendance at the meeting and gave an update on their last Speed Watch meeting. On Friday the 22nd November 4 sessions were run, 3 by Manor Farm in the morning and one late afternoon by the recreation ground. These sessions were supported by Sgt Mark Rabel and two special Constables, however they were not in continuous attendance, being called away and then returning. They did ticket 2 drivers who were exceeding 40mph entering the village and had one fail to stop. A total of 58 cars were caught speeding of which 33 were leaving the village. In the first hour the highest speed recorded was 47mph, and another 15 exceeding 40mph. A few unwanted gestures were directed at the volunteers, but they did also receive a few thumbs up. The morning session really did highlight the need for some form of speed reduction measures entering the village. If you are interested in joining the Speed Watch group pleas

Stretham Parish Council
There are 11 Councillors on the Parish Council, they are:
Janet Parish - Chair of the council and is also Chair of the Feast and the Amenities committees. Janet is a retired senior local government officer for children, youth and community. As well as serving on the council Janet is the Chair of Stretham Youth Centre and Vice Chair of the Stretham Charity
Richard Nuttall - Chair of the finance committee. Richard is a Technical Project Manager. Richard also maintains the Parish Council website.
Charles Roberts – Charles is a consultant and a Farmer. Charles is also Chair of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust and a Trustee of Stretham Youth Club Hall
Anthony (Mick) Murfitt – Mick is retired. As well as serving as a councillor Mick helps to raise funds for the local charities, including the Air Ambulance, by running bingo nights. Mick is also a Trustee of the Stretham Charity.
Jo Taylor – Jo is the Chair of the Recreation Ground Subcommittee. Jo is a senior technical support consultant. As well as serving as a councillor Jo is the clerk to the Stretham Charity and is Chair of the Stretham Players.
Colin Williams – Colin is a retired consultant.
Peter Speed – Peter is retired. As well as serving as a councillor Peter is a Stretham Charity trustee.
Jackie Saunt – Jackie is a retired teacher. As well as serving as a councillor Jackie is on the committee of Stretham Youth Centre.
Katherine Clarke – Katherine is a veterinary nurse. As well as serving as a councillor Katherine is a Stretham Charity Trustee and is a committee member of Stretham Youth Centre
Sarah Wright – Sarah is a BT client relationship manager
Vacancy – there is currently a vacancy on the council

Clerks:
Kim Bolderson – Clerk to the council. Tel no: 07507597368 Email: Stretham.clerk@gmail.com
Sandra Thompson – Assistant Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Email:Stretham. assistant@gmail.com

After a report of a couple of near misses with cars failing to stop at the Newmarket Road zebra crossing the Parish Council asked the Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department for advice on how to deal with the matter.
The response was that the crossing is positioned to spec for visibility etc and that they can't see where more signage will stop idiot drivers speeding because it's either the pedestrian thinking they have right of way and crossing in front of cars or the road is clear for them but while crossing a speeding car approaches, either way signs will not help. The zebrites make it clearly visible in daylight so there is no excuse for drivers not seeing it. Sadly it's the idiot few that choose not to be sensible or the pedestrians walking out before cars have stopped. So please be aware of the possibility of reckless drivers and that pedestrians DO NOT have right of way on a zebra crossing, they should wait until the vehicles actually stop before stepping off the kerb to cross not just assume an approaching car will stop, especially loaded lorries

2020 01
A beloved Cambridgeshire pub has shut its doors for good. The Lazy Otter in Cambridge Road, Stretham has shut, with owner Annette Gwinnett posting a heartfelt message on Facebook saying they had ceased trading for good. Annette said: "I am sad to announce that the Lazy Otter has closed its doors and ceased trading. "I have had an amazing ten years here and it has been a pleasure to welcome you and look after you, and share in all the laughs along the way! " I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and custom over the years and wish you all well for the future. Kindest regards Annette and the Lazy Otter team." The pub was a popular tourist destination, being beside Stretham Ferry Marina on the River Great Ouse between Cambridge and Ely, with many travelling on the river stopping by for a pint in the sunshine.
Subsequent reports indicate that it might be just for refurbishment

2020 01 07 PC
19/150 To receive planning applications (This will not be a definitive list at the time of printing, please contact the Clerk for further updates)
19/01373/FUL – Land west of Sanders Piece, Ely Road, Little Thetford. Change of use of land to a mix of Gypsy and Traveller residential and equestrian with the siting of up to six caravans of which no more than two can be mobile homes and the erection of an amenity building and stable block.
The Council objected to this planning application on the following grounds;

- The site will cause traffic issues to and from the site.
- It is an unsustainable location in terms of transport and footpaths
- Over development of the open countryside
- It will interrupt an important view of a grade 1 listed building, Ely Cathedral

This was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/01743/FUL – 26 Ely Road, Stretham. Proposed demolition of conservatory, construction of a two – storey rear extension, new front porch, internal and external alterations and new vehicular access. The Council made no objections to this application. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/01323/FUM – 19 Ely Road, Stretham. Erection of a new B8 storage and distribution building, additional parking spaces and associated drainage and landscaping works. An amendment was received for this application, additional information received includes;

- Arboriculture impact assessment
- Ecological assessment

• Supporting information regarding heritage impacts, parking and turning provision, business justification and fencing.
It was proposed by the Council to make no objections to this amendment, this was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/154 To receive Correspondence
A complaint was received regarding Brook Lane and the mud on the road. The large lorries and machinery going up to PX Farm are cutting up the verges and causing a lot of mess on the road. The Council asked the Clerk to contact PX Farms and aske them to ensure they clean the road.

2020 01 07 Parish Council Highlights from Newsletter Feb 2020

The Council met on Tuesday the 7th January. Here are some of the highlights...
Councillor Roberts was voted in by the whole Council, as vice chair of the Parish Council, following the departure of Councillor Bright.
The Council considered the following planning applications;
19/01373/FUL – Land west of Sanders Piece, Ely Road, Little Thetford. Change of use of land to a mix of Gypsy and Traveller residential and equestrian with the siting of up to six caravans of which no more than two can be mobile homes and the erection of an amenity building and stable block. The Council objected to this planning application.
19/01743/FUL – 26 Ely Road, Stretham. Proposed demolition of conservatory, construction of a two – storey rear extension, new front porch, internal and external alterations and new vehicular access. The Council made no objections to this application.
19/01323/FUM – 19 Ely Road, Stretham. Erection of a new B8 storage and distribution building, additional parking spaces and associated drainage and landscaping works. An amendment was received for this application, additional information received includes;
• Arboriculture impact assessment
• Ecological assessment
• Supporting information regarding heritage impacts, parking and turning provision, business justification and fencing. The Council made no objections to this application.

The Finance, Personnel and Governance Committee met in December. At this meeting they reviewed the following procedures;
• Model Publication Scheme
• Grievance Procedure
• Financial regulations
• Disciplinary Procedure
After looking through the policies the Council voted to adopted them. The polices & procedures from the Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee will shortly be added to the website.
It was brought to the Councils attention by a member of the public, that there is a lot of dog waste around the Village. On 12th September 2018, after a positive public consultation with 95% of the respondents in support, the East Cambridgeshire District Council Public Space Protection Order Dog Fouling 2018 came into effect. The Order makes it an offence to allow a dog to foul on public land and not clear up after it. A breach of the Order is a criminal offence and will result in a fixed penalty notice of £80.00, or upon summary conviction, a fine of £1000. The PSPO applies to all public places with the East Cambridgeshire District, and includes areas previously not covered by the Dog Fouling of Land Act, including common land and roadside verges. If you witness someone failing to clear up after their dog, you can report it to East Cambs District Council. They will require the name and address of the dog owner (if known), a description of the dog and owner and a car registration (if applicable). East Cambs District Council can investigate, issue warnings, fixed penalty notices or even prosecute people who fail to clear up after their dog, providing you know who that person is, have witnessed the incident and are prepared to give a statement and possibly go to court. You must ensure that you have actually seen them allow their dog to foul and fail to clear it

up. Do not assume that because a person walks the same way each day that it is their dog causing the mess.
The Council is aware that 2 street lights are not working along the High Street, Balfour Beatty have been instructed and the Council hope they will be fixed very soon.
The Council would like to extend its thanks to Caterina Darcy for managing to get a Christmas tree donated to the Village, after the Council was let down.
The Council would also like to say a big thank you to Franco De Simone of FDS Cambridge, who not only delivered a beautiful tree along with lights, but also very kindly came and collected it again. The Amenities Sub Committee will be meeting to discuss arrangements for this Christmas to ensure this does not happen again.

2020 01 26
Two heroic dads risked their lives to pull their neighbour from his burning house - and they say they'd do it again.
Last night (Friday January 24) at around 10pm, 21-year-old Milton Rowlands left his house on Berry Green, Stretham to have a cigarette. But as he walked down the road, he was shocked to see a bungalow up in flames.
He said: "I walked past the house and I saw flames in the window. I pretty much just went straight up the driveway, opened the door and tried to drag the man out, but it was just wave after wave of smoke."
Despite his best efforts, the man - standing around 6ft 6 and weighing approximately 18 stone - proved difficult to move.
"I had to get out of the house pretty quickly," Milton continued. "I just screamed 'help, fire' at the top of my lungs. People must have heard me half a village away because I've got a loud voice."
One person that did hear the cries for help was 33-year-old Jamie Dama, also of Berry Green, who was getting ready for bed when he heard the commotion.
Jamie said: "I opened the front door and just saw all this smoke. I didn't put any shoes on, I just ran out there. I could see the man lying on the floor through the door, so I just built up the courage and went in. I might only have been in there on my own for a couple of seconds, but it felt like I was in there trying to pull for ages. I was just in my socks and he had a wooden floor, so I kept slipping and slipping. I remember stopping, looking around and thinking 'oh my god, I'm actually going to die here'."
It was at that point that another neighbour, 52-year-old Kevin Jugg, rushed in to lend Jamie a hand.
Kevin said: "Jamie went first, but I was literally on his tail. I saw Jamie pulling and nothing was happening so I literally just grabbed the pair of them and then he started to move. It felt like a lifetime, but it was seconds. You're trying to suck in oxygen that isn't there."
Once Kevin and Jamie had pulled the man out of the house and into the doorway, 'about six' other men helped move him to the other side of the road.
Jamie said he thought the man would only have survived for 'about ten minutes' had he not rescued him from the burning bungalow. He said: "He wouldn't have had long, because all his hair had started to singe. He started getting burn marks and had soot all up his nose.When they sat him up, his skin was just smoking."
Five crews and 25 firefighters attended the scene at around 10.25pm.
After an ambulance arrived, the injured man was driven to hospital before being treated for serious burns.
The fire was extinguished using two hose reels and jets and firefighters remained on the scene until around 1.50am.
Jamie, who couldn't sleep after the incident, said: "Every time I shut my eyes, all I could see was a burning house. But even though Kevin and Jamie, along with Milton and one other man, were treated for smoke inhalation at the scene, they said they didn't regret diving into the building.
Kevin said: "I could never live with myself if something had happened to him and I hadn't tried. I'd do it again. I'd do it tomorrow, no hesitation, if it came to it."
A full investigation into the cause of the fire is underway.

2022 02 Parish Council Newsletter reports other than Council

St James' Church - Improving the PA system
You maybe aware that for sometime now St James' Church has been working on a project to enhance the PA system within the church to improve coverage and to offer wider facilities to the church itself and to others who maybe interested in using the building.
The proposal is to install screens in each of the 3 aisles and provide full audio coverage of whole interior of the church with the capability of relaying sound to the outside, with fixed microphones at a number of key points, lightweight headsets, handheld microphones, a new loop system and a comprehensive control suite with facilities for video inputs to allow the screening of video, films etc. A display is available in the back of the church which shows what is being proposed in detail. A complete study has been completed in conjunction with a umber of suppliers and a final design and supplier selected. The project as a whole has been quoted as costing £47,500. So far the church has raised in donations and pledges a total of £28,416. Therefore we need to raise the balance of £19,064 to enable the project get started. Fund raising is being continued with applications being made to external grant giving bodies but we still need help. If anyone is able, and wishes to contribute to the project, a collection point has been placed just inside the church, please put your donation in one of the envelopes provided and fill in the details on the envelope which will enable us to recover some money from the government, then place the envelope in the box provided.
David Buller
PCC Fund Raiser

Little Bears
We meet in St James' Church on a Thursday during term time for friendship and knitting 10.30am - 12.30pm.We knit bunting for the Church and to help decorate the village for the Feast. If you prefer to work on your own projects that is fine too. If you prefer to sew please still join us and bring your sewing along. Our last project was to knit Remembrance Bunting to adorn the Church in November. This project was made possible thanks to King Cole Ltd who very kindly donated all of the red and green wool for about 25 metres of hand knitted and hand stitched bunting. During 2020 we will be working on our Four Seasons project for the Church and are currently preparing for Spring

2020 02 04 PC
19/163 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 7th January 2020
There has been an issue with the oil tank at the Parish Rooms, it has a leak somewhere and the oil has drained out. I am meeting with a company tomorrow who were recommended by Goff where we get our oil from, to try and find out what the issue is.
19/168 To discuss the Fair ground coming to the Village in March
James Gilbey has approached the Council to see if he can bring his fair to the Village again this year, it would be from the 12th to the 15th March. The Council had its concerns about the ground being churned up, it was suggested that Councillor Murfitt go to see James to discuss these concerns and make a decision that if he is happy with what James proposes then he can go ahead with the fair. This was agreed by the whole Council.

19/172 To consider planning applications (This will not be a definitive list at the time of printing, please contact the Clerk for further updates)
20/00054/FUL – 4 Chadwick Way, Stretham. Proposed erection of single storey
garage to provide 2 off street car parking spaces. The Council objected to this planning for the following reasons. It would restrict the parking area to only one on the drive, the Council were unsure why windows and a bi – folding door to the garden were necessary in a garage and wondered if in fact the building was not going to be used for cars.

19/173 To receive planning application decisions
19/01598/FUL – 1 Old Orchard Lane, Stretham. Erection of 1 x Summer House, 1 x Green House, 2 x Sheds and associated works in a residential garden.

19/176 To receive Correspondence
An email was received from the resident of 8B Wilburton Road, informing the Council that the culvert of the existing ditch was now complete and only the landscaping left to do. A Councillor informed that the they had ben told by another resident that the pipe was not deep enough. The Clerk to check with ECDC to see if they go out and approve the finished works.

2020 02 04 Parish Council Highlights from Newsletter for February
The Council met on Tuesday the 4th February. Here are some of the highlights...
The Council considered the following planning applications;
20/00054/FUL – 4 Chadwick Way, Stretham. Proposed erection of single storey garage to provide 2 off street car parking spaces. The Council objected to this planning.
The following application has been approved;
19/01598/FUL – 1 Old Orchard Lane, Stretham. Erection of 1 x Summer House, 1 x Green House, 2 x Sheds and associated works in a residential garden.
A revised Code of Conduct and Complaints Handling Policy procedure were presented to the Council for review and adoption. The Council fully reviewed these policies and accepted them; these will soon be available on the Parish Council website.
County and District Councillor Bill Hunt was in attendance at the meeting to give a County and District update. …
The amount of dog waste in the village was discussed at the meeting. …
As you may be aware some trees have been taken down at the Topsy and Tim park, due to them being in poor health and large branches breaking off. The Council is currently seeking advice on what type of trees would be best to plant in their place. The gardening contractor will also be removing all the ivy that is growing around and up the trees in the cemetery.
Councillor Wright and Councillor Saunt were both voted in as joint chair of the Highways and Footpaths Sub – Committee. The Sub – Committee will be meeting twice a year to discuss any issues with footpaths and highways and reporting back to the full Council.
The Parish Council is currently looking at ways in which it can reduce its carbon footprint. Councillors decided that all minutes and agendas that are normally given to Councillors in paper form will now be emailed. More will be discussed at the next meeting to find ways in which as a village we can reduce our carbon footprint.
…
You will notice as you come into the Village the new Speed Watch signs that have been put up. If you are interested in joining the Speed Watch or finding out more information about the group please contact the Clerk.
Stretham WI would like to thank all the villagers who came along to our Christmas Musical Extravaganza at the School in December to join in our Centenary celebrations. We would also like to thank the children in the School Choir for providing great entertainment along with the Waterbeach Salvation Army and Breckland Handbells. The School team was very supportive and the event proved to be a great success.

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL?
ATTENDING MEETINGS OF STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Members of the public are welcome to attend the whole or part of any meeting of the Parish Council. This open session provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions for future agendas, or make representation on items on the current agenda.
Should a matter of a confidential nature be included on the agenda of any meeting then members of the public will be asked to leave, whilst that item is being discussed.
Parish Council ordinary meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (excluding August) at 7.00pm, in The Parish Rooms, High Street, Stretham.
You will be asked to sign-in on arrival. It is useful to leave a contact address and/or email, should the need arise to formally send a response to you. The public participation session is clearly

identified on the agenda and takes place immediately after the meeting has been convened. If you wish to speak during the public participation session, please make yourself known to the Clerk immediately prior to the meeting.
The chairman will adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes and invite members of the public present to address the meeting. The time for each member of the public to speak is limited to 3 minutes. If more than one member of the public wishes to speak on the same topic, then they should nominate one person to speak on their behalf. This will avoid duplication and make the best use of the public participation session.
Once the public participation session is finished, you may not participate further in any of the deliberations of the Council at that meeting. You are welcome to stay and listen to the debate that ensues.
All agendas and minutes of Parish Council Meetings are posted on the notice boards giving the required three clear days notice. They are also available via the Parish Council's website.
If you are unable to attend a meeting but wish to make written representation, written statements must be received by the Clerk, at least 3 clear days (excludes weekends) prior to the meeting.
Email: You can email the clerk to the council

Other items
Planning for our 2020 Feast has started. The theme this year will be the 1940's.
The member of the community who will cut the ribbon to start our Feast celebrations this year will be Pauline Reagan, a well-known member of the community who has been involved with many village organisations and events over the years including the guides and Methodist chapel. There will be a dog show again this year please look out for more information in this newsletter and on our Facebook page. We are also pleased to announce that the prize draw is back with a £250 first prize, tickets will go on sale at the end of March. Like our Facebook page to get up to date information.
Our parade charity this year will be SERV, a Cambridgeshire and Suffolk charity which free of charge has volunteers transporting blood products, donated breast milk, patient samples every day, night, weekend, & public holiday including Christmas day for the NHS and air ambulance. We desperately need help to set up, dismantle and marshall the parade during the Feast weekend, without volunteers we would not be able to have our Feast celebrations so please get in touch if you want to get involved and keep this traditional and popular event going.

2022 02 04

Stretham Parish Council Meeting February 2022
Doug Stuart stated:
Bullying is specifically prohibited in the Members Code of Conduct … Bullying is an abuse or misuse of power to undermine … or denigrate …
I have at first-hand witnessed a couple of councillors here bully, intimidate and use their positions of power to negatively affect members of the community who they represent
Councillor Roberts, your speech at this council to oppose Terry Yardy to continue his twenty-year stint on Stretham Charity is a pure use of your power over members of this council to attack him and therefore his position on the charity purely from his comments made on public forum about the village centre plans. Yet when Mr Yardy attended the January PC meeting to question you about it you did not even give you the decency of a reply.
Councillor Parish I have constantly watched you shut down residents from speaking their views on issues ….
And Councillor Nuttall I have witnessed you'd be dismissive of other counsellors and residents' views regarding the Community Centre Plans.
Ex-Councillor Williams stated in his resignation letter that one of the main reasons he resigned from the council was in respect to the bullying of residents and Mrs Darcy who is here tonight will confirm that she was bullied if you ask. …

I have provided in a separate documents to counsellors some examples of bullying I've witnessed meetings where members of this council have abused their position of power to undermine or humiliate, denigrate or injure …. I wonder if you could advise me of your process in place

2020 03 03 PC
19/187 To discuss the purchase of 2 new laptops, a printer and equipment support
It was put to the Council that both the Clerk and RFO laptops are not running as efficiently as they should and could do with being upgraded. The Clerks Printer is also not working. The Council agreed to spend £500 on a laptop each for the Clerk and the RFO. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.
The Council agreed the Clerk to purchase a Printer to the value of £200, this was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, Seconded by Councillor Saunt, with the whole Council in agreement.
It was suggested that Office 365 be purchased for the new laptops and to change the email addresses. This would cost £9.40 a month. A bookings email will also be added for an additional £2 a month. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, Seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/193 To discuss a Parish Council Facebook Page
Councillor Wright suggested to the Council that having a Facebook page would be an excellent way of communicating to the village what the Parish Council is doing and relay any important messages. It was also suggested that most Parish Councils do have their own Facebook pages now. Councillors agreed that a 3-month trial would take place, to monitor what was put on the page and also to monitor how much of the Clerks time it would take up.
The RFO to produce a Facebook policy and present at the next meeting.

19/194 To consider planning applications (This will not be a definitive list at the time of printing, please contact the Clerk for further updates)

20/00200/FUL – Saunders piece Caravan and Camping, Ely Road Little Thetford. Change of use including an increase of touring pitches 10 to 20, siting of 16 mobile home holiday lets and to cease caravan storage.
The Council objected to this planning application, due to the fact that there is no date restriction for when the holiday lets can be occupied, the Council therefore felt that this would be a residential site and not holiday lets. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and Seconded by Councillor Saunt, with this whole Council in agreement.
19/195 To receive Planning application decisions
19/01373/FUL – Land West of Saunders Piece, Ely Road, Little Thetford – Approved
19/196 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
No update was provided

2020 03 03 Parish Council Highlights from Newsletter of April 2020
The Council met on Tuesday the 3rd March here are some of the highlights...
The Council considered the following planning applications;
20/00200/FUL- Saunders Piece Caravan and Camping, Saunders Piece, Ely Road, Little Thetford, Ely. Change of use including an increase of touring pitches from 10 to 20, siting of 16 mobile home holiday lets and to cease caravan storage. The Council objected to this planning.
The following application has been approved;
19/01373/FUL – Land West of Saunders Piece, Ely Road, Little Thetford. Change of use of land to a mix of Gypsy and Traveller residential and equestrian, with siting of up to six caravans of which no more than two can be mobile homes and the erection of an amenity building and stable block. This application has been approved.

The Council looked through and considered all of the applications that had been received for the position of Parish Councillor. A blind vote took place and Jenny Markham was voted on to the Council. The Council looks forward to welcoming Jenny at the next Council meeting.
The Council would like to make residents aware of parking in the Village, as a number of issues have been raised. A lot of cars are parking on the verges in the Village, which is causing them to become cut and very muddy. Whilst there are no parking restrictions in place people can park on the Public Highway providing, they obey the Highway Code regarding junctions and they are not causing an obstruction. However, it is illegal to park on the footway. If cars are continually parking on the verges and causing damage, Cambridgeshire Highways do have the authority to charge people for any repairs. …
The issue of Viewing mirrors being put up by residents was also brought up. …
Some Councillors attended the recent East Cambs District Council Conference …
The Council reviewed and adopted the following risk assessment, Parish Rooms Building Risk assessment, Play Parks and recreation ground risk assessment. These will be put onto the Parish Council website.
The Parish/council are pleased to announce that at the last meeting they reviewed and adopted a new Environmental Policy, you will be able to view this on the Council's website, Stretham Parish Council is one of very few Parish Councils to adopt an Environmental Policy. The Council will look for ways to reduce its carbon footprint.
A number of reports have been received regarding street lights that are not working in the village
At the last Council meeting, Councillors discussed putting together a Parish Council Facebook page. This will be used to keep residents updated with what is happening with the Council. Please keep an eye on Facebook for the new page!

2020 03 Newsletter, other items
Stretham Feast This year we are pleased to be able to bring you an extra evening of Feast fun. In the Parish Rooms on Thursday May 14th the village's SOS singers will be performing a melody of 1940's songs followed by Mike Petty doing a talk and slide show on Stretham in the 1940's.
The WI will be selling tea, coffee etc …
At the family BBQ and picnic on Friday 15th May the Knightingales will be performing …

2020 03 03 Parish Council Meeting Highlights in Parish News Corona edition
Since the lock down on March 23rd The Parish Council has not been meeting and the monthly newsletter has been suspended. The councillors have still been very busy supporting the community, especially the elderly and shielded, while still carrying out essential business.
This newsletter will give you a brief overview on what happened in the council's March meeting, advice on where to get help during the Covid 19 crisis and an overview of what the councillors have been doing during the lock down. Hopefully business will be back to normal soon.
The Council met on Tuesday the 3rd March; here are some of the highlights... [this was a duplicate of what had been published in the March Newsletter] …
Councillor Saunt is leading a team of volunteers to collect and doorstep deliver prescriptions. The Council is also working with the WI to do welfare checks and shopping for the shielded and elderly. The Council is also working with the primary school to provide 2 course hot meals during the week for the shielded and elderly. By the end of April 592 meals were provided. Councillor Roberts cooked the hot meals over Easter when the school was shut and will do so again over the May half term. District Councillor Bill Hunt donated £50 to the hot meals project so that Easter eggs could be provided to the people supported by the hot meal scheme. The Clerk has been acting as a central contact point for those in the village needing help or information. A grant from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation was obtained for the sum of £4,810, to keep the hot meal scheme going until the end of July. The Council is running the Stretham CIS Facebook page, which was set up so residents could have a central source of official information. 2 leaflet drops to inform residents of where and how they could get support during the crisis were provided by the Council and delivered by volunteers.
Annual Meeting of the Council - there is no requirement for a Parish Council to hold its annual meeting. Therefore we will not be holding our usual annual meeting in May.

LHI Application - Councillors Wright & Saunt have completed the LHI application, which will be submitted by May 31st.

Other items from Corona Edition of Newsletter

FAREWELL from Natalie – The Vicar
Dear Friends,
Being in the middle of a pandemic has changed so much already – it has changed how we communicate, socialise, how we are church, how and when we can exercise, how some of us receive food, how children are educated. For some our livelihoods have been impacted and for many in our country there has been a change in health, whether that be because of infection due to the virus, or due to a change in mental wellbeing because of the sense of overwhelm and worry that we are experiencing. It is important to acknowledge the enormity of these changes and to give ourselves permission to process them. …
On another note, it is with great sadness that when you read this, I will have left my role as your vicar without the opportunity for a public goodbye. My family and I will continue to live in Ely and I will be starting a role working across the Church of England, based at Church House in Westminster. My new role will involve leading a project to look at how we might engage with sport and wellbeing from a faith perspective. I have loved being your vicar, there have been so many blessings, Stretham is such a friendly village. But, even more, it is a community of love – I have been so impressed by the way in which you look out for one another. Thank you for being you and for all the ways you have blessed my family and I over the last 5 years. I hope that it is more of a farewell rather than goodbye, as we will still be in the area, albeit in a different role. May God bless you all in the future and may you go from strength to strength. Although the church building is closed at the moment, due to the pandemic, we are very much your church. If you are in any kind of need, please contact office@ stmarysely.org or 01353 659550
Every blessing, Natalie Team Vicar

The Stretham Funky Scrub Makers — Gloria Martin, Sharon Burling, Kim Smith, Helen Pitt, and Beverley Frost are busy making scrubs, for our local GP surgery and could do with some more material - donations of duvet covers or bed sheets made from cotton or poly cotton,that can be washed at 60 degrees, is ideal. The brighter the better. If you have some you can donate please leave at 17 Berry Close or contact the Parish Council Clerk to arrange for collection. Experienced sewers/seamstresses also welcome to join the team. The scrub makers will also be making masks, that will be available as from The end of May - £2 for and adult mask £1 for a child's mask all proceeds going to the NHS Together fund. The masks will be available from Stretham Stores and the doorsteps of 17 Berry Green and 17 Berry Close. The Stretham Funky Scrub Makers would like to thank the Stretham Charity for the donation towards the cost of thread

AN OFFER OF HELP IN RESPONSE TO COVID 19
Stretham Parish Council working with Stretham Womens Institute. If at any point in the next few weeks or months you find that you need someone to help in anyway, e.g. collect groceries, chat on the phone, collect prescriptions walk the dog, we are here to help! Contact the Parish Council on 07507597368 or clerk@strethampc.org.uk We have volunteers collecting and delivering prescriptions twice a week so please don't hesitate to get in touch. Thanks to Stretham Primary School we are now able to offer hot meals, during the week to the most vulnerable, who have little or no support. This meal will be delivered by our volunteers. If you would like this support or know of anyone who may benefit please get in touch with the Parish Council.

2020 04 PC
There were no Council meetings until July 2020 due to the Coronavirus Epidemic
2020 05 PC
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2020 05 19 ES

We were surprised to read Mr Roberts' unsubstantiated accusations on the front page of the Ely Standard. Our impression is that the scores of residents involved with Save Wilburton from Overdevelopment are concerned by issues like the large size of the Camps Field development proposal relative to the village, negative impacts on infrastructure and the character of Wilburton, and faux community engagement exercises. Open democratic debate should be encouraged with respect to any potential 'community led' development. We are concerned that the aggressive stance taken by Mr Roberts towards members of our community who disagree with him about the issues, without presenting evidence that these unnamed individuals have done anything wrong, is his considered response to the recent parish council survey which indicated that an overwhelming majority in the village oppose his plans for Wilburton. Results of survey reflect widespread opposition to the land trust development, Results of survey reflect widespread opposition to the land trust development,
The tone and language used in his published comments may intimidate residents who ought to be celebrated for caring about the future of their community. Perhaps the chair of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust might consider accepting responsibility for how upset many villagers in Wilburton have been by the submission of this planning application immediately after a clear NO was returned by the village survey, and just as the virus lockdown began. Some in Wilburton feel powerless in the face of a development proposal being aggressively promoted by well-connected and powerful political figures in our region. Many worry that the laudable aims of community led development are undermined when this is the case. Results of survey reflect widespread opposition to the land trust development, Scenes from a very early public meeting where the plans were discussed. Results of survey reflect widespread opposition to the land trust development, Scenes from a very early public meeting where the plans were discussed
The members of the Save Wilburton From Overdevelopment are as follows:

SAVE WILBURTON FROM OVERDEVELOPMENT'S LETTER TO MP

Support from land trust chairman

I write in response to last week's front page, 'New homes plan causes outrage in community'.
For months now, trustees of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust - and seemingly anyone associated or showing a modicum of support for our work - have been the subject of a targeted, largely clandestine and highly orchestrated campaign of bitter nastiness.
This "outrage" to community homes at Camp's Field, Wilburton, comes from a small cadre of mean-minded, pitiless individuals who the Ely Standard for some reason is unable, or unwilling, to name.
So let's shine a light on what their real issue is. Because I do know some of them, and I'm now calling out their behaviour for what it is.
And first let me say that I have absolutely no issue with robust, forthright views which oppose the plans at Camp's Field.
That's a sacred right.
But this particular streak of opposition goes beyond that.
These people are wreckers and they are blockers.
They target from behind keyboards, via social media.
They have no concern for creating a community which offers a place for everyone, regardless of wealth or background.
Yet they say they want affordable homes for local people.
They say they understand the misery of the housing crisis, where lack of affordability wrenches people from communities where they work or have strong ties.
They then have the temerity to come out to clap our NHS staff during coronavirus, many of whom couldn't afford to live in Wilburton.
The message being: 'We'll praise our heroes FROM our doorstep, but we don't want them anywhere NEAR our doorstep'.
Because the 35 affordable homes at Camp's Field would absolutely offer a place to live for a nurse, a teacher, a care home worker, a supermarket employee and an Amazon delivery driver.

We have a solution, right here, right now, driven by the community, for the community.
We've been successful in Stretham already, and we can do it again.
Not only are we helping to create a thriving community for everyone, but we have already built £6 million in property assets, producing £12,500 in monthly rental income, all legally locked to the community for its benefit.
Community-led development is not synonymous with winning over 100% of the village.
It is local people taking back a little bit of control to deliver something that will benefit everyone for generations to come.
But they want to bring it down.
Many of them have moved here recently from outside the county, to see out their sunset years in an ossified village exclusively made up of wealthy retirees in a feudal community where they have control.
"If you can't afford to live here, tough luck. Clear off."
So it's no surprise they don't believe there is a long waiting list of local people wanting an affordable hole.
And no surprise they state new community-owned assets like green spaces, sports facilities or other amenities are "neither needed, nor wanted".
Neither needed, nor wanted. That's also the message they send to a young family of key workers, who grew up here, but have no hope of living in the place they call home.
CHARLES ROBERTS, chairman of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust

Unanswered questions
I am writing to you as someone who has looked in depth into CLTs across England, and support the general aims that they stand for.
The National CLT handbook is a good source of information on how it should be done. I have also attended every possible public event SWCLT have held in an attempt to ask questions and be informed - they claim to be "open and honest" - but rarely do they provide the information.
I made an informed decision to object to the proposals, with the location, scale and low provision of affordable housing pinned to high market prices being main concerns.
The two letters published from Mr Hennessy and Mr Roberts demonstrate the attitude taken towards those who do form their own opinion which differs from theirs - with attempts to silence opposition apparent both in Wilburton and in other CLTs in East Cambs, particularly Kennett.
Yet neither letters demonstrated community support, a policy requirement in the local plan and an "essential requirement" Mr Roberts has previously presented.
For Wilburton, this sizeable development is some distance from the centre of the village. Distance figures quoted in the planning documents are from the entrance to the site, not the middle or furthest houses.
To get to the main bus stops serving Cambridge (a single bus at around 7:30am out and 6:30pm return), would require crossing the main road twice and two side roads - one which is getting increasingly busy during peak time.
Traffic calming has been suggested - via a pedestrian crossing: are they seriously proposing to slow traffic by having children cross the road in a 40mph limit - if so then maybe they would like to volunteer as lollipop men?
One of my main concerns is the provision of only 30% of affordable housing, with prices based on a high market price, not local wages.
It is misleading to label that "genuinely affordable". Figures from the National CLT (from Feb 2019) show that for almost 800 houses developed by CLTs in England, over 80% were classed as affordable, with a just under 17% being market houses.
In South Cambridgeshire, including Cottenham, CLTs are aiming to provide at least 80% affordable housing - even commercial housing sites are required to provide 40%.
In the south of this district, the local plan stipulates 40% affordable housing - yet the provision for Kennett CLT is only 30% - how can that be something to support?
Figures from CLTs around England show the provision suggested for Wilburton (and others supported by ECDC) is one of the lowest.

The development will also not provide any social housing. I have previously asked questions regarding affordability and total cost of ownership of these homes - something neither Mr Hennessy nor Mr Roberts has been willing or able to answer.
Given that this has been the key point made throughout the box-ticking engagement process, the community should to be informed.
A figure of 20% below market rate is often stated - but what does this relate to? Just the value of the house, not the expected total monthly payments.
If local market housing is 12x local wages, 80% is 9.6 times - how is that "genuinely affordable"? It seems to be a bit less expensive.
There are also ongoing costs of rent and service charges on top of any "leased share" - the total costs are important, not an overly simplistic 80% figure.
I agree it will help some, but is it really as affordable as we are being led to believe? At various SWCLT box-ticking public events, the combined forces of the SWCLT and some Parish Councillors have been unleashed on the community.
Important questions were asked by many, but answers avoided when the SWCLT didn't want to answer. It is odd that these two letters do not mention their behaviour in meetings - which has in part increased opposition to the development as people doubt it is as genuine as they claim - shouting does not answer questions.
As Mr Hennessy picked a quote, then so shall I after reviewing the 3rd event. One that particularly caught my attention was "I've got to make sure that this school doesn't close" - where did he get his facts from to suggest the school was going to close?
It has been repeated several times since around the village, causing obvious concern. At the time of the meeting (Feb 2019), the school was preparing documents to submit to the county council to extend the use of the temporary classroom beyond August 2019 - with the planning documents stating: "te latest pupil forecasts from the county research group indicate that the number on roll will be well in excess of the school's permanent capacity of 120 places for the next five years."
When later asked if the school could take the numbers, Mr Roberts stated, "We are told by the school that actually, yes, more is important". It may be now, due to two consecutive low intake years going through the school, but this is a planning issue which has to be based on forecasts for the years to come and cumulative development in the catchment area.
Mr Roberts also said "you are talking about 120 houses on here but many many years away" - which clearly will not help the current situation in the school.
We can now see from the County Council document submitted to the planning portal that, based on catchment forecast figures and development in the village, "this means that by 2022/23 the total population will be 184 and there will not be capacity at Wilburton CofE Primary school".
Although only a catchment forecast, it is the best knowledge available and suggests a school unlikely to cope rather than one to be saved from closing.
The county council propose to take the additional children via an extension of Haddenham School, not Wilburton.
I invested a lot of time and effort in helping both the pre-school and school via committees when my daughter attended and I want to see it thrive - but I also did not expect it to be used to gain support for a large development in the way it has.
The intake figures for 2019 and places offered for 2020 are both at or above the level recommended for the school (20). The county council decide on the school, and were happy to make their forecast figures available.
One SWCLT trustee was unable (or maybe unwilling) to give an answer regarding catchment and potential intake figures for 2019 when asked directly at a meeting, despite being a school governor.
It should be noted that neither the current Stretham nor Haddenham CLT developments have made or will make Section 106 payments for school facilities (Freedom of Information Request FOI/EIR 20/21-001) - this has not been mentioned at any SWCLT event.
How can this be allowed to happen for large scale development across the villages? Maybe one for ECDC as the LPA to answer. At the other end of the age range, both Mr Roberts and Mr Hennessy have stated the village risks becoming a geriatric village.

What are they basing this on? The last census shows Wilburton to have a lower percentage of older people as a proportion of the population than the district as a whole (totals of 75 and over - 7.6% in Wilburton, 8.1% in the District, 2011 figures).
Current school pupil forecasts suggest there are an increasing number of young families here, with pupil numbers growing steadily from 90 in 2008 to over 120 now.
The census does show a higher proportion of retired people in the village - but many are younger retirees, not geriatrics.
Of those I know, some have either already moved away and others plan to - as do we, this will not be our "sunset" home. Having moved away from it's historic farming heritage, Wilburton is now a commuter village, serving Cambridge.
The SWCLT developer previously stated proximity to Cambridge being a reason to build here. Yet 34 of the proposed houses on the SWCLT site are to be bungalows (Planning Statement, para 6.26) - that is almost 30% of the development - with at least 25% of the CLT houses being bungalows.
We have been repeatedly told these are homes for people to live and work locally - not to retire to. It would appear to be a development neither Mr Hennessy nor Mr Roberts shouldsupport, given the opinions they have expressed.
Mr Roberts also made the statement that "I would imagine there will be hundreds of jobs in Wilburton" - with no clarification of any details. I am also surprised that the village survey was mentioned - a lot of hard work was put into the survey, and many in the community appreciate that.
Of those who responded, the survey shows only 18% supported the plans (or 33 out of a population of 1013, just 3% of the village).
The parish council this week also suggested there were too few respondents. Should we then void local election results in Littleport Ward (22.1% turnout) and Soham South Ward (23.6% turnout) - removing five Conservative party candidates from the district council?
If the survey result had shown 75% supported the proposal, would the argument of a low turnout still be made? The survey was suggested by an SWCLT trustee, but vehemently opposed by two other trustees - surely that would suggest they knew they did not have the support of the community.
The wording was agreed by the Parish Council, and the survey included a link to the SWCLT site for information. It had more respondents than any other SWCLT related feedback, possibly even any
CLT feedback in the district.
It would appear toys are being thrown out of the pram, but the community has never shown support for large development. In a document on the ECDC website prior to the 2015 Local Plan (a document Mr Roberts stated did not exist when I mentioned it) - the results showed the community supported smaller developments of up to 10 houses, but not large developments.
From a planning perspective for community led development, the support for a particular scheme has to be evidenced, not the opposition. To date, this has not happened for Wilburton. Stating there are 132 members of the CLT is misleading in terms of support for a particular scheme unless their opinion on that scheme has been requested.
Many SWCLT members have submitted letters of objection

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Yet they say they want affordable homes for local people. They say they understand the misery of the housing crisis, where lack of affordability wrenches people from communities where they work or have strong ties. They then have the temerity to come out to clap our NHS staff during coronavirus, many of whom couldn't afford to live in Wilburton.
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But they want to bring it down. Many of them have moved here recently from outside the county, to see out their sunset years in an ossified village exclusively made up of wealthy retirees in a feudal community where they have control.
Many SWCLT members have submitted letters of objection to the planning portal. Members are saying they have had no input to the process at all. Does that even constitute a sound CLT given their legal definition - one of being democratically run by their members who should be involved in key decisions throughout the process?

To suggest “If you can’t afford to live here, tough luck. Clear off’ is insulting to many of us in this community who support the notion of a CLT development, just not this approach to CLT development. It shows the level to which “supporters” are prepared to stoop.
Members of my family are working on the front line, in the NHS, and I shall continue to support them. Maybe his beloved Tory party should be supporting the NHS with more than clapping?
My view is we should be providing more affordable housing locally tied to local wages, not high market prices - without the majority expensive open market housing for commuters.
The planning policy states an “element of open market housing” may be allowed, not the vast majority. But would that provide much need funding to ECDC via their trading company to cover massive future funding shortfalls? Probably not.
As one SWCLT trustee stated at the Feb 2019 event, “this is a golden opportunity for an authority”. He quickly changed what he said.

…
There is a housing crisis in Britain - and East Cambs is no exception
My main concern is that there is a housing crisis in Britain, and East Cambs is no exception.
People find it difficult to get on the housing ladder, there is an increasingly number of households in the UK, and we need to find different ways to help them.
When it comes to the development in Wilburton there seems to be two issues, the first is that it will spoil the nature of Wilburton, the second is that the development will not provide truly affordable housing.
I don’t agree with the first point, Wilburton is a small village, it has a lack of facilities, and traffic issues.
I hope that if there are more houses in the village, we may get more facilities, and all the traffic will be spending money and supporting the village, rather than just travelling through it at significantly over the speed limit.
There are a lack of homes for young people growing up in this and nearby villages.
There is plenty of space in Wilburton, if we don’t use it, where are they meant to build houses?
It doesn’t always feel very welcoming to “newcomers” and this does feel more like villages closing its doors to outsiders.
I disagree with the assertion from the protest group that this is “threat to the character and setting of the village”, every village has to evolve and grow.
The defining characteristic of Wilburton is traffic.
The new houses won’t lead to a huge increase in traffic levels, and may lead to things like more traffic calming measures, and over time a better business case for improved school facilities, more shops in the village etc.
In terms of the concerns about the whether this will deliver truly affordable housing, there is probably a genuine concern.
This is clearly an attempt to try to provide housing.
I do have questions and concerns about the allocation process for these houses, but doing something has to be better than doing nothing.
There are also accusations of croneyism which are not without foundation.
This is a good idea that has been executed very badly.
Thank you for maintaining my confidentiality.
If you ever run a story about speeding vehicles in lockdown, you should also pop over to Wilburton, to most residents it is a far bigger concern it’s just dangerous at moment.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

View from local parish councillor
I am writing to you as one of the Wilburton Parish Councillors who resigned (as mentioned in your column) as a result of personal abuse on social media and elsewhere which was organised by the ‘Save Wilburton from Over Development’ group.
At least three councillors have resigned because of their campaign, including the two most recent chairmen.

I am in favour of the development, and I have absolutely no issue with any opposition to my views, and I fully accept in democratic society others may be against it. What I find harder to accept is personal attacks aimed at those you don't agree with, which flies in the face of democratic debate.
I am also concerned that such attacks from a very small but very well organised and committed group may dissuade other people from expressing their views.
The reality is that having orchestrated as much support as they possibly could, the group managed to persuade 145 individuals in a population of 1,013 to support them.
That is 14 per cent, which they are portraying as 'emphatically overwhelming opposition'.
I am unsure how they believe they can describe 14 per cent as 'overwhelming opposition'.
Their campaign has contained a significant number of opinions, which they are absolutely entitled to, but they have portrayed their opinions as factual evidence. One might interpret this as 'fake news'.
It might be of interest to note that one of the organisers of the campaign, who describes himself as a "professional academic' has actually had papers published on fake news and the way societies can be manipulated. To quote one of his papers: 'the partial displacement of one-to-many media platforms, like the BBC, by many-to-many social media platforms seem to have rendered it easier for very small groups to foster extremism' . I think he is right.
I am not suggesting that the work of the Save Wilburton group is being carried out to demonstrate the truth in this theory, however it is a point of interest.

…
Our community is suffering because of this scheme
I am writing to you in regard to the article published in last week's Ely Standard (dated May 7) about the new development in Wilburton, and the SWCLT.
I was born and brought up in the village and have lived 56 of my 61 years here.
I think you could call me a 'local' and I very much welcome newcomers to the village.
Our community is as wonderful as it is because of the new people who have moved into Wilburton.
I was a fan of the Community Land Trust when it was first set up.
I was very excited about the proposed development in Stretham with its added benefits for the village like the new doctor's surgery and other promised amenities which would be good for the villagers.
Our youngest child was wanting to buy a house so this opportunity of an affordable home for him and his partner was wonderful. His partner got a job in Wilburton and together they went to look at a property in the Stretham CLT development and they loved it.
But then they tried to buy it, finding out very quickly that it was not affordable at all. With two bedroomed, so called affordable homes costing £250,000, the costs of purchasing an 80 per cent share along with rents for the remainder and a service charge were prohibitive, and beyond the means of many local people on local wages.
In the event they looked at market homes in the area and are now happily in their own home just a few miles away in Littleport, purchased (100 per cent not 80 per cent) for £180,000 - £70.000 cheaper than the "opportunity" in Stretham.
As for the doctor's surgery, this has still to materialise at all. I understand there are now houses on the allocated site?
Since 2002 there have been two attempts to build towns on our doorstep so excuse us if we are a bit wary.
Apart from the Camp's Field plans there are other smaller developments and infill plans for Wilburton which have or will provide around 80 extra houses in the Village, including some affordable homes. For the most part these extra homes within the village envelope.
Do we really need another 115 houses on top of these more sensibly placed developments?
NO, we really don't.
The area that the Camps Field site site is on, isn't in the village envelope so it's not going to be 'in' the village. This area could easily be enlarged to take up a huge area starting at this point. Sorry I don't trust them.
The one entrance proposed is very narrow for the number of proposed houses (and only one entrance?) Why, if this development is primarily about giving local people affordable houses, is it

planned to provide the absolute minimum number required by any development. That doesn't make much sense to me.
Apparently, the planners have done their research and only 22 per cent (think that was what was stated) will be actually going to work down Twenty Pence Road (that's a relief then - sorry I sound a little sarcastic!)
We live at West End and the traffic is usually static in the mornings, a result of heavy traffic numbers travelling from the direction of Haddenham and because traffic coming from the A10 has priority turning into Twentypence road.
There are literally 100's of new homes being planned in the surrounding villages which will only make this worse.
I personally have great respect for the Save Wilburton from Over Development Group (which is far far more than just three people. The group has done so much work looking into this whole scheme and reporting back to the community. They have been transparent and have reported back (with evidence) what they have found.
Contrary to the suggestions made by Mr Roberts, I can say that as an avid follower of the Save Wilburton social media pages I have never seen any postings which might be construed as abusive to anyone.
As this scheme was moving quite fast my husband and I wanted to find out more about it. So when an offer was made to join the SWCLT we jumped at the offer as we thought as last we would find out what was going on apart from the few occasions there were 'sales pitches' at the village hall.
We filled the form and posted it with our money. A long time later we finally got our certificate saying we'd been accepted (some were refused I believe).
Then we waited for news..... and waited..... and waited, nothing.
I understand that the SWCLT are of the opinion that their obligations to consult with their membership have been satisfied by the issue of leaflets to the wider community!
Then, very recently, we both received an email saying we could watch the virtual SWCLT AGM meeting on May 20. The cynical side of me wonders if they have been pressurised into this as I know others have complained about the lack of communication?
It stated in your article that there are "132 local members who support their aims". In actual fact, supporting the aims of the SWCLT is a condition of membership so the statement is hardly surprising.
But supporting the aims does not mean supporting everything that the SWCLT says or does and as far as Camps Field is concerned my husband and I are two who certainly don't. And we haven't been asked.
Also, your article states "73 eligible local families who have expressed an interest in an affordable home" well I know of just two people who have looked into it.
It seems unlikely that there are so many but then perhaps my son and partner are still on the list.
Your article also states "the scheme was initiated by, and is being led by, a "legitimate local community group" and has general community support, with evidence of meaningful public engagement". But where is this evidence?
I did attend a parish council meeting when the village survey results were presented. It was unfortunate that the meeting was arranged for when only three councillors could attend.
And it was disappointing that the PC chose to take the survey results personally instead of grasping the clear message that the results conveyed. In the event the Parish Council did nothing, and still hasn't.
I was also quite shocked to discover that members of the parish council who are also SWCLT trustees are allowed to vote on the issue of whether the parish council should endorse this proposal or not.
Conflict of interest or what! On a personal note I was very pleased to discover that the survey results showed that those who took part in the survey were heavily against the idea of the scheme.
I was also pleased to see that those who were obviously very anti the scheme were most respectful and not unpleasant during this meeting.
Wasn't too impressed when the item was finished and I got up to leave that I was heckled from a member of the council.
I feel this community is suffering because of this scheme. I am not at all surprised that the

wonderful community spirit is being torn asunder with all this going on.
At least with the two previous huge developments it was us against the planners whereas the Camps Field plans appears to be led by those in authority over us in the village.
No wonder the whole village is in such distress.
…
Scheme is a ‘fantastic idea’
I am writing to express my support for the CLT project in Wilburton. I currently live in a CLT property in Stretham and have done for nearly three years.
The scheme is a fantastic idea to ensure local people are provided with affordable housing in a village they have a strong connection with.
It has meant that my partner, three-year-old daughter and I can live in the village I grew up, and in which several family members also live.
The architecture and design of the properties is rather unique and not comparable with the typical bland housing estates you see these days, in which properties all look very much alike.
I feel this adds much more character to the village. From what I have seen of the plans for Wilburton, I feel the facilities that are looking to be provided would be an excellent addition to a village that at present doesn’t have a great deal.
It would only add value to the residents of Wilburton and surrounding areas.

…
Four-bed CLT property would ‘change our lives’
I am writing in support for CLT at Wilburton on behalf of myself and my family (myself, husband and four children).
We currently live in Littleport. I was born and raised in Haddenham, my husband Stretham.
We have been in Littleport for 17 years living in a mortgaged property, but cannot afford to buy or rent in Stretham or Wilburton due to high property prices compared to Littleport and average earning wages.
Our children are at Stretham Primary School, my husband works for the family business in Stretham and our boys play for Stretham Sporting.
My husband’s parents, grandmother, brother and uncle live in Stretham. My family Wilburton and my father Haddenham.
I am a trainee nurse, and very much depend on family for childcare and support. They very much help raise our family.
If a CLT property (we are seeking a four-bed property) comes available in Wilburton, it would change our lives.
There were no four-beds with CLT at Stretham, so if Wilburton CLT cater for larger families it would be life changing for us as a family.
We are constantly up and down the A10 back and forth from school and after school activities and spend many hours in the car.
Both sets of parents are aging and need our support more and more. My father at Haddenham is very frail and lives alone and I often get calls to support him.
I hope you acknowledge our want and need to get to Wilburton.

…
“Wonderful idea’ to build more affordable housing
How are you? Just to let you know I am in complete support of the housing plans for Camp Field, Wilburton.
While on a trip to Ibiza I got knocked down one night by a hit and run driver leaving me paralysed and unable to ever walk, talk or use my right arm again.
So I think it is a WONDERFUL idea to build more affordable housing.
My wife lives in Stretham but she cannot house me because of my disabilities. I live in a very small, separate bungalow some 40 minutes away and neither of us can drive, so a modified home in the next village or even Stretham itself would be perfect.

…

Returning home would be ‘unachievable’ without this scheme
I saw your appeal on Twitter about the Wilburton community land trust applications, and I wanted to voice my opinion. I am currently a tenant in one of the SWCLT houses in Stretham.
I was extremely fortunate to be offered this property, because despite the fact that I am a young working professional (veterinary nurse) who has always lived and worked in the local area, I was unable to afford a property within the area due to high prices and lack of housing suitable to a single person wage.
I look forward to the development in Wilburton. For me, personally, it will mean that I have the opportunity to return and live in the village which I was born and grew up in.
My elderly parents still live there and being close to them and in the village which I consider my home would be unachievable without such a scheme.
I know several people (such as my neighbour who is also a Wilburton local) that would benefit greatly from this.

…
‘Huge asset’ to the village
We were offered a rental property within the Stretham development at the end of last year.
This has been extremely beneficial for us, as a family, as we have finally been able to gain independence again. Previous to that, we were living with my parents.
It was vital for us to remain in, or near, Wilburton where we have always lived. However, private renting was not feasible because of the extortionate prices (even with two consistent wages).
Staying local means that both my partner and I can continue with our current jobs, without additional commuting, as well vital childcare arrangements that have been in place (with my parents).
The children can continue consistent relationships with friends in the villages - rather than having to relocate which was looking like the only option!
Our network has extended since moving to Stretham and we have a greater network of friends.
I honestly believe that if we had gone into private renting, we perhaps would not be able to build this network as there are few areas developed in a such a way - integrating residents.

There is definitely a community feel within the development (and not just with the CLT occupants).
I think Camps Field in Wilburton would be a huge asset to the village. The additional play areas would be beneficial for the children of the surrounding areas and the housing would be positive for residents with current applications that are unable to private rent or get on the housing ladder without assistance.
I have always been in support of the CLT and the benefits the properties bring to the villages and it’s residence.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED
Being able to set up base in a place I already call home is perfect
I’m emailing to express my strong support for the development of more affordable home for local residents in the Stretham and Wilburton area.
Being a resident of Stretham for 22 years after being posted here when my father was in the British Army, and now being in the Royal Navy myself, wanting to stay in the area is not possible financially due to soaring house prices in the area.
So having these opportunities that the SWCLT offer is perfect for me and my partner to set up base in a place that I already call home - just not my own, yet!

…
Why are CLTs going wrong?
If you live in East Cambs, you will know there is growing concern around the CLTs in Wilburton and Kennett.
From initial investigation I think we have a problem, but it’s a complex story and this article is the first part of what I expect to be a long and difficult dialogue.
First, some background. Community Land Trusts (CLTs) exist to help local people lead, define and

manage human-scale developments that are genuinely wanted by the community.
They are often gifted or offered land at very low cost, and are an antidote to big, impersonal, commercial developments. It's a great idea. I support it.
Yet there is growing opposition here, so I decided to take a closer look.
I analysed the concept as for any system, process or organisation: by first identifying the weaknesses.
I think CLTs, as they operate in our district, have three built-in weaknesses. See what you think.
First, CLTs are NOT regulated. They are part of a network, and they are registered with the FCA but they are NOT, repeat NOT regulated. Who says? The FCA, that's who.
And if no-one regulates you, then you cannot be held accountable against clear rules. So what kind of rules should govern CLTs?
We might want to start with the distinct but similar UK Government Community Right to Build approach, which... "enables the community to design, plan and build a small-scale development of community facilities or housing.
"The development cannot increase the size of the community by more than 10% over a 10-year period."
It also states that proposals must "have the agreement of more than 50% of local people that vote through a community referendum".
With this, everyone knows where they stand. Not the same with our CLTs. At Kennett, the proposal is for over 300% growth.
At Wilburton an initial 20%, with other plans likely to take it to 30%. As for community support, Kennett residents wrote 165 objection letters, against only 75 for.
At Wilburton, no-one knows what support there is, because it has not been properly measured.
Second, CLTs have the power to create wealth. They can sponsor developments outside the existing planning envelope, which means land chosen for the development can significantly increase in value. No problem if the land is gifted to the CLT. If it's sold for commercial value, however, well, do you see the problem? I sincerely hope so.
Third, there is a conflict of interest in planning policy. In our area, CLT-led development is at the heart of housing strategy, while the council's finances depend on it, so planning refusal is, shall we say, unlikely?
At Kennett, the development was actually included in the original Combined Authority Devolution Deal and a council-owned company is lead developer. Why?
At Wilburton, the former leader of ECDC personally helped drive through the project while he was council leader. Why?
In our district, the same people are involved at every level: the people driving the projects are the people in charge of the council which grants planning permission and depends on the profits, and also in charge of the Combined Authority, which lends the money to finance the CLT-led projects. This is banana republic territory.
I make no accusations against any institution or individual. I just point out that the in-built weaknesses of this system make it possible for abuse to occur.
I prefer systems that are designed to eliminate abuse. At East Cambs, the administration has bet a lot on CLT-led development, which may explain why Charles Roberts tried to intimidate Wilburton opponents by threatening to sue them.
A bizarre twist in a very strange tale. What is happening here? Answer: don't know, but I think we need to find out.

…
I support the development
I can only speak from a rental perspective and would say I would support a development that provided affordable rental properties for local people.

…
2020 05 28 ES
Letter was 'full of inaccuracy and misinformation'.
I must respond to the extraordinary rant by Steve Griffiths in last week's Ely Standard. After finally

reaching the end of this meandering correspondence, what are we left with? Convoluted, inaccurate claims which seek to discredit me and the SWCLT and smokescreen the real issues. So let's get real. If there's any common ground here, it is that Mr Griffiths would appear to agree that we need more affordable housing in Wilburton, that Community Land Trusts are a good thing and that the SWCLT homes at Camp's Field will benefit people. The SWCLT has worked on this basis too. Trustees have investigated, engaged, negotiated, number-crunched and fine-tuned a plan that will deliver 35 community-owned affordable homes, with no public subsidy, to support local people with places to live now and for future generations. Homes that otherwise would not be delivered. But Mr Griffiths, apparently fully cognisant of the issues of the housing crisis, doesn't want them. He thinks there are better solutions out there. But where is this magic housing tree, this serendipitous happening that will deliver something greater? And how long should the community wait for it? Five, ten, fifteen years?
Opposition to this scheme is fine. But it is quite another thing for Mr Griffiths to pontificate on fairytale affordable housing scenarios, presenting them as realistic, when in fact they exist only in his head. If there are deliverable ways to create more affordable homes, tied to local need, I am all ears. Would any prospective local landowners, benefactors or volunteers please stand up. And so back to reality. Manor Farm has delivered 19 affordable homes, soon to be 23, for local people, creating £6 million in property assets and a further £12,500 per month in rent, all legally tied to benefit the community. It's working now, and it can work again at Camp's Field. Mr Griffiths is tying himself in knots about the affordability of our CLT homes. Better to talk about this in terms people can understand. Will these CLT homes provide a nurse, a teacher, a health worker, a tradesman or delivery driver a place to live they can afford? Yes. The facts speak for themselves; we have three NHS workers, and people with jobs of the kinds listed above, living in Manor Farm CLT homes right now, who might otherwise have been forced to move away. He claims to have explored in depth the National CLT Network. Then he would know that our Manor Farm development was visited by the Network in 2018 as part of their 'Seeing is Believing' initiative. Manor Farm was described as an exemplar for 'Working in Partnership' and the visit allowed other CLTs to learn directly from its successes so far. We have hosted other visits from local authorities, a Government housing minister, and even from overseas, including from Australia, to see the award-winning work we have already done. We must be doing something right if Homes England was prepared to support this scheme with a grant of £342,505 to cover development costs — money which will be reflected in the improved affordability of the homes. And let's not dismiss the benefits of new open market houses too. Not only are they paying for the affordable housing, they also provide much-needed new homes. They are also tomorrow's friends and neighbours and may provide the energy behind future community endeavours.
We have engaged, we have held exhibits and the community has helped shape these plans. This will be a high quality development with a focus on green space and amenities that the whole village can enjoy. People do support what the SWCLT is doing and last week's letters page was testament to that fact. If 'm passionate in defending the SWCLT it is because I know what is at stake here. Local, often young people, are being failed by the housing system and forced out of the place they call home through no fault of their own. By all means oppose Camp's Field, but to do so via red herrings, nonsensical politicising, attacks and conjecture, and under the pretence that better solutions are out there, is to expose Mr Griffiths' motive for what it is — a concerted attempt to torpedo these CLT homes by any means. CHARLES ROBERTS, chairman of Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust

2020 06 PC
There were no Council meetings until July 2020 due to the Coronavirus Epidemic

2020 07 07 Parish Council Minutes
The Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March 2020 are now an accurate record. This is Proposed by Councillor Speed and seconded by Councillor Wright.
19/208 To discuss the Annual General Meeting and agree if officers should stay in place until 2021 (including Sub — Committees)
Councillor Wrights said she would like to hold one as not all Councillors were given the option in

the first place to hold an Annual meeting, Councillor Saunt agreed.
Councillor Roberts proposed that there should not be an annual meeting and that all officers should stay in place until 2021. Councillor Roberts stated that we having been living in exceptional times and that business has carried on very well. This was seconded by Councillor Murfitt. The Council voted on this proposal with 6 Councillors voting for this and 4 against. Therefore, all officers will stay in place until 2021.
19/209 To approve payments made during lock down
April Payments
S Thompson Wages and expenses £724.80
K Bolderson Wages £559.52
May 2020
S Thompson Wages £626.33
K Bolderson Wages £562.78
June 2020
K Bolderson Wages £561.15
S Thompson Wages £449.86
19/208 To discuss the Annual General Meeting and agree if officers should stay in place until 2021 (including Sub — Committees)
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the first place to hold an Annual meeting, Councillor Saunt agreed.
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19/210 To Review and approve the internal audit documents for year end
The Clerk read out the internal audit document and highlighted the points that were raised. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts that all points had been noted and the Clerk and RFO to make these right. This was seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/211 LHI Bid Update
The Clerk informed the Council that the bid had been submitted but would not hear anything until September.
19/215 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Taking last 4 houses over, which are 1 bed bungalows. 2 out of the 4 have been allocated. Funding is now a lot lower than first indicated. Planning for phase 4 is now going in, however this does not include the Doctors surgery, due to the NHS being at a stand still at present with the recent pandemic. But the land is still allocated for it.
Councillor Roberts informed Council that the pre-consultation for the A10 upgrade is now out for comment. There are some routes that are not suitable for the Village. Anything to the East of the Village would not be good. Councillor Roberts and Councillor Wright to form a response to this and the Clerk to submit on behalf of the Council. The Whole Council was in agreement with this.

2020 08 04 Stretham Parish Council Minutes
19/225 To receive an update from County and District Councillor Bill Hunt
I am currently pushing to get road improvements on the A1123 between the takeaway and Manor Farm
19/227 Newsletter update
No update was given
At this point in the meeting Councillor Parish (Chair) informed members of the public that the meeting would now close and the next two items would be discussed confidentially. Councillor Parish asked if members were happy for this to happen, it was proposed by Councillor Wright, Seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole Council in agreement to close the meeting to the public.
19/228

19/229
Minutes not published
19/232 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
4 bungalows to come over in September, the surgery is now making progress slowly again. Phase 4 planning has been sent in, Councillors were reminded that the planning application was a 3-way application, with Laragh Homes, SWCLT and Stretham Parish Council. Council confirmed role as joint applicant giving security and certainty, as party to the 106 agreement.
19/233 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
C Roberts Legal fees in relation to Parish Council business £10,543.13
Ashton Legal Legal fees £83.572.10
L Shearing Newsletter £737.00
Wages £554.66
Furniture at work Fire Proof Cabinet £1,076.16
All funds were moved from the Cil account to our current bank account on the 03/08/2020
19/234 To receive Correspondence
An email was received informing Councillors of the mess left on the recreation ground by the Football team, the Clerk to ask them to ensure all rubbish is collected after matches.
An email was received asking if the football pitch could be used for a pre — season Football match, the Council agreed that it could be used and a one-off fee of £50 would be charged.
19/236 Items for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting
The Proposed Village Centre
To receive costs for mobile speed cameras
19/237 To receive Councillor Questions
The Footpath along the river between Gravel Farm and the Fish and Duck Marina (far side from Stretham) is almost impassable due to nettles and thistles as it has not been cut this year. Can it be cleared and if so, who's responsibility is it? Councillor Roberts informed the Council that it was Shropshire' responsibility to do this.
Councillor Saunt had been asked to raise the issue of the adverts and information in the Village Newsletter in the August addition. Why has the Youth Club a full-page advert when information regarding the Councils committees has been squeezed into less than half a page and is difficult to read. Surely it is more important than an advert. Does the Council not wish residents to know who does what? It was suggested that the font that was used for the Councils committees was wrong, but also that all adverts should be in landscape form.
Could it be put into the front cover of each Newsletter the contact details for each Council member and the names of the Sub — Committees Chairs? The Council decided that the information that is currently on the Website could be added to the Newsletter.
The meeting closed at 8.40pm

2020 08 06
County Communities and Partnership Committee Agenda Document Pack, 2020

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Cambridgeshire Communities Capital Fund was launched on 1st April 2020, and sets aside up to £5m to help support community projects across the county. The fund is also to support community led projects to improve health, wellbeing, social and economic opportunities in our communities.

1.2 The fund may contribute up to £0.5m capital funding for community-based projects which can address issues which a specific priority for the local community, address inequality of access to services or activities, and implement community involvement in delivery or design of the project.
1.3 At its meeting of 12 March 2020, the Committee agreed the following eligibility criteria:

i. Funding will be awarded for eligible capital spend only, and must demonstrate how the purpose of the Fund, will be met

ii. Bids must be able to demonstrate additionality, including, for example, how communities will be improved or enhanced by capital investment in their community

iii. Bids will be encouraged for projects which fill gaps or where there is an under-representation in council presence or access to public services or other activities within communities, where there is an evidenced need, or known or emerging demand for service. For example, we want to ensure that our rural communities have the same opportunities to engage with services or activities as all other communities

iv. No bids will be successful without some level of match funding. Capital funding from the Fund should be awarded only where all other sources of funding have been exhausted, or where council funding would provide match funding alongside other sources of funding. Match funding may be intended rather than secured at application stage, and may include non-cash match funding (e.g. in-kind contributions, land transfer etc.)

v. Funding will not be awarded for repairs and maintenance on assets that haven't been subject previously to a regular repairs and maintenance regime. Even then, not all repairs and maintenance would be eligible to be funded through capital budgets, and so proposals that include this would need to be considered on their own merits

vi. Proposals for capital projects with a potential impact on carbon emissions will need to demonstrate how these will be minimised
vii. Funding will be awarded using the most appropriate financial model — for example, this may be
in the form of a non-repayable grant, a loan to be repaid at agreed terms, or an equity-type investment in an organisation with a recurring return on that investment. All funding arrangements would need to comply with existing County Council policies, including for example the existing third party loans policy, which has specific requirements around security, interest rate, setup fees, and guarantees
viii. Funding will be awarded only where there is a guarantee of no revenue implications for the County Council (aside from debt charges as a result of borrowing), except where an evidenced case can be made demonstrating how, in turn, an increased short-term revenue cost will lead to more substantial savings later
ix. State Aid considerations will form part of the overall application and review process.
x. Applications will need to be endorsed by, and submitted via, either the local County Councillor, or the County Council's Community Champion for the area

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 During June and July 2020, four member panels were convened to consider projects. The Panels considered how the projects met the funding criterion and recommended that the following are approved for funding:
The village hall helps to impact on skills, loneliness and obesity, as well aswider health and wellbeing outcomes.
In addition to the extra meeting space, the project will also provide a separate bar/lounge area that sports users can enjoy alongside community bookings such as weddings, christenings and parties.
.
2.4 Stretham Parish Council - £500,000. The existing parish rooms are outdated, in poor repair and unable to meet the needs of the community. The building was last refurbished in the 1960's and is unable to be extended further. In consultation with the local community, there is demand for a community space from which increased community events and activities can take place. The parish council in response has developed this project to build a new community hub. Stretham has a higher than average older population, many of whom have limited mobility and therefore find it difficult to access services and activities outside of the village. By providing a new community hub in the

village, it will increase the opportunities for all residents, but particularly for more vulnerable residents. **Match funding of £1m will be provided from the parish council.**

Stretham Parish Council application for Village Centre funding, 2020
[I am unsure when this application was submitted, perhaps June 2020]
Funding
The capital costs related to the building are estimated to be £1.5m in total. See Appendix 3 for detailed cost breakdown. We are requesting £500,000 from the Communities Capital Fund. The remaining £1m will be provided from other sources.
See Appendix 3 for detailed breakdown of funding sources.

Criterion 1 Criterion 1 – Are there key issues within the community that this project will address? For
example, loneliness, isolation, poor adult skills, obesity etc.
What data/evidence do you have to support this? You may wish to use www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk, provide details of community surveys or any other information.

Evidence of community need.
In March 2016 the Parish Council asked residents of Stretham to complete a survey in order to gain feedback and ideas on how to improve the facilities and resources available at the Parish Rooms and to make the Parish Rooms a more attractive venue for the Community.
It was clear from the responses to the survey that the Parish Rooms are not fit for purpose as many barriers to use were identified. Therefore it has been identified that a new community building is the way forward in providing a beneficial useful resource That will have a positive impact on our developing and growing community, which could be used by many existing and new community groups and providing a focal point within our expanding village for events of all kinds.
In March 2018 a second village wide survey took place in order to give the Council useful feedback from the community on potential uses of the new Community building and what the benefits of having a community space will be to the village. The feedback was vital to the Council as it was used to form a view about the design and potential uses of a community facility and would help inform the next stage of the decision making process. The age range that took part in the survey was 7 – over 90 years. The project was put on hold due to lack of available funding.
Issues the community identified with the existing village hall include:
1. Has no car park
2. Needs new roof
3. Poor facilities
4. Access
5. Size of hall
6. Outdated facility
7. Not child friendly
8. No outdoor room
9. Dull
10. Drab and dark
11. Needs handrail on the path
There is no possibility of improving our existing village hall that was built in the 1870's and modernised in the 1960's due to:
Not being able to provide a car park - there is no room for one.
Not able to increase the size of the hall - there is no room for expansion.
Needing to replace the asbestos roof – expensive.

This is the wish list from the community before the community facility is a possible reality, or with any professional input.
Just this week (25-May-20) the lady who is leading the scrub and mask making project in the village in response to the Covid 19 crises, stated that if there was a sewing group in the

village it would be very popular with all ages – this would make a great intergenerational project. A project that could easily happen if we had the Village Centre.
Existing and potential groups and organisations who would use the building are:
• Cubs, scouts, beavers
• Women's Institute
• Village drama group
• SOS singers (over 60's singing group)
• Young @heart (over 60s social group)
• Mum and Toddler groups
• Sewing group
• Men's Shed group
• Mothers Union
• Village speed watch group.
• Yoga classes
• Dancing classes
• Parish Council meetings – full council and sub committees
• Public meetings
• Poll station for elections
• Information/advice drop-in sessions
• Indoor bowling
community appeal and use
As well as developing community led projects we would expand our existing community led projects that aim to develop a sustainable 'cultural' model of where community members mental health promotion stems from community and organisational participation that values, enables and links up social inclusion, informal and formal learning.
The community themselves will be encouraged to be involved in the creation of projects, which they would be empowered to set up and run. This will foster a sense of pride, achievement and belonging. As well as increasing the opportunity for volunteering in the village.
Frequent community use throughout the year
The village centre would be set up so that it can be used 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year. The Social Club side of the building and the community café would also be open to residents every day. The building will be a hive of activity with people coming and going to activities meeting friends at the Social Club or community café or just popping in to look at the notice boards. Grab a leaflet or just to relax in the well thought out communal areas in the grounds of the centre. Where dog walkers can also relax

Criterion 2 – How will the project address inequality of access to services or activities? Is there a lack of similar facilities/services within your area?

Evidence of how the lack of current facilities impacts the community
Having to travel outside the village for family celebrations and get togethers.
• Lack of communal space to meet up.
Cambridgeshire Insight shows higher than average numbers of older residents in the 50 – 75 range and those with limited mobility - as Stretham is a rural village with poor transport links, having to travel outside of the village for services, help and advice is a big issue for the elderly and those without transport.
No way of combating loneliness or isolation as there is no facilities or resources to offer solutions in the village.
The population of 2,003 (2018 figures from Cambridgeshire Insight) is growing quickly with the recent addition of the housing at Manor Farm, yet the village facilities are not improving at as mentioned are increasingly unsuitable as a Village Hall.
How the community locally will benefit from having the project
Feedback from the surveys that took place tell us that the residents feel that they will have the following benefits from having a village centre:
• Promotes community

• Gives Opportunities to get together both old and new community members
• Useful to have a room in the village you can hire
• Strengthens community
• Provides an opportunity for residents to meet, bond and build relationships
• Provides a resource to encourage activities
• Very important to have a focal point for meetings in the centre of the village
• Being able to do things closer to home
• Having a reasonably priced venue for residents to access
• Hub of the village
…

Criterion 3 – How will the project incorporate local community involvement in its design and implementation (including formal groups such as parish councils)?

The Parish Council is made up of elected residents some of whom having roots going back in the village for many generations. There are also councillors who are new to the village, this will enable a balanced approach by all to the project.
Working with SWCLT (Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust – See more in Appendix 4), whose approach knits in well with the ethos of the village centre model, as the SWCLT is a community led housing organisation, the village centre will be a community led social empowerment and enablement project.
We strongly believe that our proposal fits well with the Think Communities approach of building and strengthening a resilient community and the new Village Centre provides a place where people can feel safe, healthy, connected and able to help themselves and each other.
The Village Centre project will reinforce the relationship between the Parish Council, the SWCLT and Stretham Village and act as a focal point for village activity.
Evidence of working with the local community to deliver the project
It is planned that a third consultation process would take place if this application is successful.
This consultation process would include:
1. Consultation with all village groups and organisations including the pupils at the primary school and attendees to the youth centre.
2. A planning for real exercise at the annual village Feast Fayre where over 2,000 attendees (mostly village residents) will have a say in the design of the building and the landscaping. There will also be an opportunity to put ideas forward for activities that could take place in the centre, which residents will be empowered to run. With support if needed, following our sustainable “cultural” model.
3. Strategies will be in to place to ensure it’s not just those who talk the loudest and most frequently that are heard in our consultation process. We will be inclusive, as a key purpose of this project is to reduce and prevent isolation and loneliness in the community.
4. We will also use the Parish Council newsletter, that goes to all households in the village, to inform and update the community on the project and to constantly remind them of how they can communicate with the council their thoughts and wishes.
5. If this project got the green light, very quickly the social club management committee would be formed from the local community who would start shaping the clubs identify and functions as well as fund raising for equipment to furnish the facility. Having the community involved from the start will empower the community, creating ownership and a robust, sustainable facility.
6. The village drama group already have a management committee and so would also fund raise for any specialist equipment needed.
7. A management committee for the village centre would be formed made up of representatives of all the user group so that their voices are the ones directing the development and running of the building. This will ensure the centre is run by the community for the community.
8. An art heritage project before the build would-be run-in order to create a collection of artworks – could be photos or sculpture etc or a mixture. The theme will be “Together we are strong”. The artwork would bring all ages and cultures of Stretham together to work on pieces to decorate the

newly built centre, that reflect past and potential times when the village has worked together (i.e. current Covid 19 crises). This project will promote and recognise resilience in the community and a sense of place, a place where the community belongs, as its theirs.

Criterion 4: What level of match funding is being, or will be achieved (noting that external match or match via community action will score higher than match from other CCC sources)?

In addition to the funding from this application, we will fund the building as follows :
A loan from the Public Works Loan Board for £640,000. We currently have an existing loan from PWLB, (for the current Parish Rooms) but this is nearly paid down and would be paid off before completion of this project.
We have identified other sources of grants from which we expect to receive a total of £100,000 grants
Due to the success of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust in building houses in Stretham, the Parish Council has received more than £50,000 in funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds that have already been received and are help in a reserve account specifically for this project.
We intend to hold a number of local fundraising initiatives to raise at least £10,000 towards the cost of the building and have sufficient reserves to cover any shortfall in the local funding.
The existing Parish Rooms which have been shown to be not fit for purpose will be sold during this process, with an expected net income of £200,000

B. Stakeholders / Partners
Are you working with other organisations to deliver the project? Please provide details

SWCLT as above and procurement of land needed. We have approached the SWCLT about the village centre project, They are very interested and have started investigating obtaining land near the site of the new village doctors surgery for the project.
Youth Centre as an organisation can access the views and desires of the children and young people of the village to inform the management committee and Parish Council.
Social Club – as above
Community Café – a friends of the Community Café created to help with menus and form a body of volunteers to run the café

C. Impact
What difference to the community will this project make? How many people do you think will benefit as a result of the funding?

Mental health services have historically developed around medical models of practice; typically involving referral of individuals that are thought to have mental health problems. For logistical reasons mental health services are unable to fully address the scale of need. Having a village centre that enables the community to run their own cultural projects that have been self-identified to address need will enhance the community's ability to be resilient and self-educating.
Having ownership of the project will enrich the community with a common goal promoting community cohesion by working together to create a positive outcome.

D. Internal and External Factors
What could have an impact on what you plan to do?
What are the key risks and how will you overcome them?

Impacts :
• Lack of funding
• Lack of community engagement

Risks : See Risks and Mitigation below

Key Risks and Mitigation
Risk Mitigation
Insufficient Funding
The project cannot proceed without the funding from the Community Capital Fund
Initial Cost estimates
Previous discussion with an Architect has given an indication of costs. Careful project control and early engagement with Architect and Quantity Surveyor will ensure costs are well understood
Lack of community engagement
Ensuring good communication on progress and opportunities will keep the community engaged. Having the cultural model in place will ensure a sense of ownership and belonging to the project from the start.
Building Cost overruns
A contingency amount is included within the building cost estimates. Careful project control will ensure we keep within budget.
Inability to purchase suitable land
A potential site has been located in conjunction with the SWCLT and is under consideration for the building location. The project cannot proceed without a suitable location
Project Cashflow
Milestone drawdowns from funding sources will ensure that funding is available at the right time for each phase of spending, keeping cashflow risks to a minimum.

Appendix 1 : Requirements and Architect Brief for Stretham Village Centre
(Note for Context: This Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 were provided to an architect in order to receive initial advice on feasibility of the Village Centre and to provide an indication of costs for the project)
Stretham Parish Council are considering building a new Village Centre within the village to replace the current Parish Rooms which are not considered fit for purpose.
We have already consulted the village through three separate surveys and the following requirements and brief are derived from the responses to the survey and other planning meetings.
Separately, we are progressing with development of a business case for the new building and considering funding options.
To assist with the business case and the plans, we require an initial architect drawing sufficient for us to obtain cost estimates. At a later stage we will commission the engagement for the final architect drawing and oversight of the building project.
Building Requirements
Main Hall, able to seat up to 150 people. To have a raised Stage at one end (ideally removable when not required), suitable for drama and similar performances. Floor of main hall must be suitable for exercise or dance classes.
• Smaller meeting room
• Catering standard kitchen
• Social Club room, with shared bar
• Function room, sharing bar with the Social Club. Can be used in conjunction with main hall for large functions
• Toilets. Suitable facilities, including disabled toilets.
• Storage facilities (at least 2 separate areas, one for Council, one for other regular users of the storage. To include storage space for folding table & stacked chairs to be used for functions
• Clerk office, room for 2 desks and storage space for the Parish files
• Terrace / outdoor area attached to the main hall to allow events to spill out onto the terrace in good weather
• Foyer area (near to the Clerk’s office)
• Parking area for users coming by car
• Boiler room / Cleaners’ closet

• To have an eco-friendly / self-sustaining building which minimises operational running costs
• A caretaker's apartment, close to or attached to the Hall
• An apartment suitable for letting out to visitors / tourists to generate income to cover costs of the Hall

Options - Style

We are considering a style that either:
• Fits into a rural landscape; or
• Is a clearly modern, iconic and distinctive building

Deliverable results
• An initial architect drawing sufficient for us to obtain cost estimates, in electronic form
• A presentation of the drawing, concepts and ideas to the Council

Appendix 2 : Sketch Drawing of Village Centre

Appendix 3 : Financing details

This section sets out the estimated total capital costs of the building, and the funding sources providing the capital for the construction, including the contribution requested under this application.

Building Capital Costs	Amount	Description
Land Purchase	£ 100,000	Purchase/Consideration for land to site the building
Building ground floor	£ 960,000	Main hall, Community Centre, Social Club
Building First Floor	£ 240,000	Caretaker flat, flat to let
Fitout	£ 200,000	fixtures and fittings
Total Costs £ 1,500,000		
Funding Sources		
Public Works Loan	£ 640,000	Loan from Public Works Loan Board
Community Capital Fund	£ 500,000	Grant from Community Capital Fund (this application)
Grants & funding	£ 100,000	Grants from other local sources
CIL Funds	£ 50,000	Available CIL funds held on account by Stretham Council
Reserves & Local Fund raising	£ 10,000	Funds from Council reserves and village fund-raising vents
Sale of Parish Rooms	£ 200,000	Sale of the existing Parish Rooms building
Total Funding	£ 1,500,000	

The funding would be required at set milestones as detailed below. These milestones and figures are subject to discussion with other funding sources such as the PWLB.

Milestone	Amount	Purpose
On signature	£ 20,000	Architect fees, Planning Application, Legal fees
Planning approval	£ 50,000	Planning, Design, Deposits, Quantity Survey
Land purchase Agreement	£ 100,000	Land purchase
Building Start	£ 200,000	Building Phase 1
Building Phase 1 Complete	£ 130,000	Building Phase 2
Total £ 500,000		

In addition to the capital cost estimates of the project, we have done a number of models of the income model for the Village Centre and estimate annual expenditure of approximately £85,000 per annum, covering Utilities, Maintenance, wages and PWLB repayments. This would be covered by net income contributions from the use of the rented flat, plus use of the facilities, including Social Club, Community Café, the Main Hall and the Meeting Rooms.

Appendix 4 : Stretham Parish Council relationship with Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust

The Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust (SWCLT) was setup in 2011 by the Stretham and Wilburton villages, making it Cambridgeshire's first Community Land Trust.
The aim of the SWCLT is to give the people who live or work in the villages more say over how to develop locally and in ways that could benefit the whole community.
SWCLT has so far delivered 23 affordable homes in the Manor park development in Stretham and has recently submitted outline planning application for a 115 home development at Camp's Field of which 35 are affordable homes.
The Stretham Parish Council has been a strong supporter of SWCLT and has provided funds to SWCLT to cover costs of architect fees and planning as well as taking over ownership, management and insurance of open areas of the Manor Farm development such as the green spaces and play park.
The buildings of the SWCLT have generated CIL funding for Stretham in excess of £50,000 which we will be putting towards the Village Centre project.
In addition, we are working with the SWCLT to secure a suitable site for the Village Centre.
The ongoing collaboration between the Stretham Parish Council and SWCLT clearly demonstrates how we work with, within and for the benefit of the local community and we strongly believe that our proposal fits well with the Think Communities approach of building and strengthening a resilient community.
The Village Centre project will reinforce the relationship between the Parish Council, the SWCLT and Stretham Village and act as a focal point for village activity.

More information on SWCLT is available at https://www.strethamwilburtonclt.co.uk/

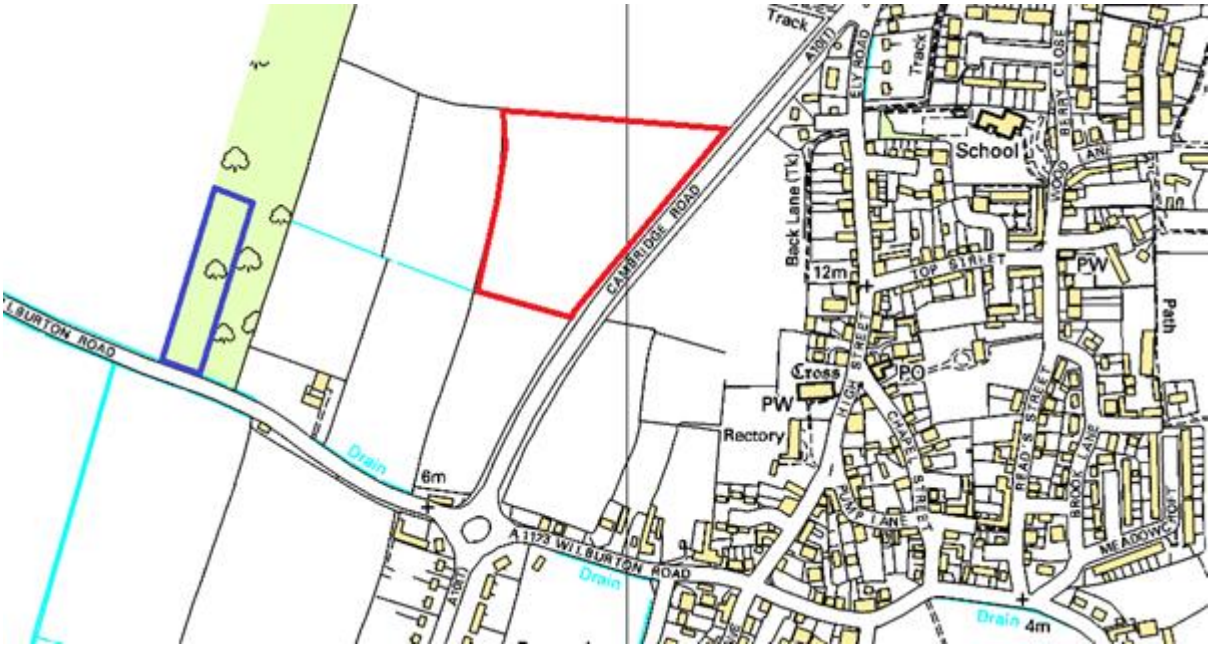
2020 08 08 Stretham Resident Facebook Group
Is this the time for us to spend £1-million on another Hall?
According to the Ely Standard the County Council has granted Stretham £500,000 towards a new Community Hall with the Stretham Parish Council (us) putting in another £1-million
Such a scheme was rejected by Stretham Parish Council as too expensive when it was last discussed more than a year ago.
We are already paying towards a Doctor's Surgery and sponsoring a planning application for more homes spreading up to the cemetery.
Can we - you - afford even more expense at this time?

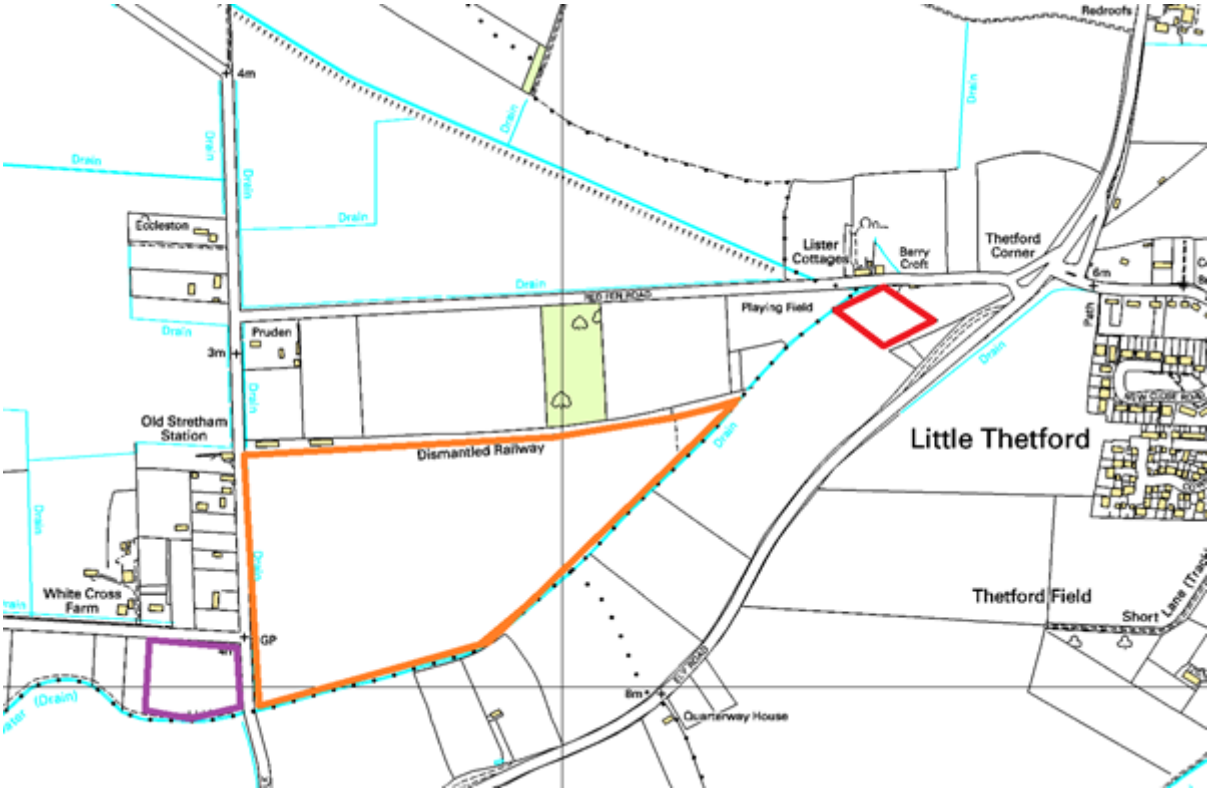
2020 08 10 PC Website
Village Centre Funding Success!
After two village wide consultations and a lot of hard work the council was delighted to hear that the application made to the Communities Capital Fund, for funding towards the Village Centre has been successful for the full amount applied for – £500,000. More work now will be taking place, including further consultation and fund raising, to ensure the project's success. More details will be put in the village newsletter on a regular basis so that all residents are kept informed on progress.
[Parish Council website]

2020 08 10 PC Website
Stretham Parish Council owns a number of pieces of land in the area and has just acquired another field. This is an update on the land owned by the Parish Council and the new field.
We own 3 fields in Little Thetford near Grunty Fen Road (west side of A10), currently let out for farming or grazing. These fields have been under our ownership for a very long time and provide a modest income to the Council.
We also own "Eleanor's Field" on Wilburton Road which still has trees in the top end from when it was an orchard. This field was previously privately owned but was gifted to the Council a few years

ago. We have looked at options to make this usable as a regular recreation area, but the location outside the village and the access are not ideal so we are considering turning this into a paddock.

We have just purchased a field (see map below) on the west side of the A10 Cambridge Road, 250m north of Stretham roundabout. If you cross the A10 on the path west from the Church, it will be uphill to your right. The field was listed at a recent auction and it was our unanimous view that this is an important opportunity to own a key piece of land very close to the village in a strategic location. In the next year, we are likely to lease the land for farming, with the intention of making it available for recreational use by the village after that. We consider the land as a long-term investment in a key location. The purchase has been made using funds held in reserve and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds. At the August Parish Council meeting, the Council reviewed the land currently owned are all were in agreement that we would much prefer to keep ownership of the land if at all possible, but to ensure future tenancies would be no more than a year to allow us flexibility in future if required. [Parish Council website]





2020 08 16 ES
East Cambridgeshire is getting a massive boost from the County Council that will see £1.4m awarded to projects in Littleport, Soham and Stretham.
Stretham Village Centre will receive £500,000, £498,000 will be for the refurbishment of Spencer Mill in Soham and Littleport will get £406,000 for a youth and community centre.
A total of 16 initiatives across the county will receive funding in the latest round of applications agreed by the council's community and partnership committee.
The money is coming from Cambridgeshire Communities Capital Fund that was launched in April and sets aside up to £5m to support community projects.
Its objective is to support community-led projects to improve health, wellbeing, social and economic opportunities.
The existing parish rooms in Stretham are said to be outdated, in poor repair and unable to meet the needs of the community. The building was last refurbished in the 1960s and cannot be extended further.
"Following consultation with the local community, a demand was identified for a community space where increased community events and activities could take place," said a Council spokesman.
"A new community hub in the village will increase opportunities for all residents, but particularly for the more vulnerable. Match funding of £1m will be provided from the Parish Council"

2020 09 01 Stretham Parish Council Minutes 1st September 2020 selection
Councillors met at the Village cross at 6:30pm and took a tour round of all land owned by the Village. The Council meeting started at 7:30pm.
19/242 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 4th August 2020
Please see attached Action list update. [there is no attachment]
19/245 To receive an update from Councillor Wright, with regards to leasing Eleanor's Field
Currently the field is over grown, does not have suitable fencing and no access to water. It was agreed to get the field topped now and again in spring. It was also suggested that the field could be

used for sheep grazing as that would keep the fencing costs down. This was proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/248 To discuss and agree the Village Centre project
Councillor Parish explained to the Council that in 2016 a survey was sent out to residents asking opinion on the current facilities in the Village. It came back that residents felt that the current rooms were not fit for purpose. Unfortunately, there was not enough capital around at the time and the project went no further.
With the capital bid funding having been made available, it was put to Council to accept the funding to put towards the building of a New Village Centre. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, seconded by Councillor Roberts, with the whole Council in agreement.
19/249 To approve and sign the Grant proposal form
It was proposed by Councillor Speed to accept the funding and to sign the grant forms, as long as all the terms and conditions are acceptable. This seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.
[There was no reference in the Parish Council Newsletter for October of this debate]

19/250 To consider planning applications
20/01025/FUL – 4 Cage Lane, Stretham. Erection of new garage following demolition of existing, removal of walls and extended access. The Council made no objections to this application..
19/252 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Planning has gone in for the South side of the cemetery. Councillor Parish asked if an update on the Doctors surgery could be put into the Newsletter.
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 in the Parish Rooms
2020 09 07 Stretham Residents Facebook
Copy of post asking when comments might be posted. Mp7054
We can't share everything posted to us but will do our upmost to keep an eye out for any posts you have made in the future, thanks

2020 09 10 SRF

2020 09 15 FHF
News-less Newsletters, minute Minutes, holes in the Web: researching village history in 2020
With the loss of Newspapers Reporters to assess and comment on developments, local historians need to turn to other sources to attempt to collect information on which they can make their assessment of events.
For those researching a particular place they will include Newsletters, Council Minutes and information published online.
But how comprehensive is their coverage. At a Parish Council meeting in August 2020 once councillor criticised the Council's Village Newspaper:
Why has the Youth Club a full-page advert when information regarding the Councils committees has been squeezed into less than half a page and is difficult to read? Surely it is more important than an advert. Does the Council not wish residents to know who does what?

The Village Newsletter, a colour publication on glossy paper is circulated to each house. Much of the information is common, month by month. It includes a summary of some of the decisions made at Parish Council meetings. But how does this summary compare with what is subsequently published on the Council's Online Website.
The Council met on Tuesday the 7th July here are some of the highlights…….
As there has not been a meeting held since March, Councillors discussed if all officers should remain in post until 2021. It was agreed with 6 councillors voting in favour of this decision and 5 voting for an Annual Parish Meeting.
There were notes on online plans for a major road scheme some of which were detrimental to the Village, initiatives to slow drivers, a footpath had become overgrown and hedges should be cut.
There is nothing much to interest historians
However the Minutes for that meeting, published later once approved by a subsequent meeting includes information not covered in the Newsletter:
A 'Community Land Trust' scheme of low-density, high-quality housing on land otherwise outside the development area, to include houses for rent to local residents, industrial units and a doctor's surgery was progressing; houses had been handed over. However: *Funding is now a lot lower than first indicated*.
The minute continues: *Planning for phase 4 is now going in, however this does not include the Doctors surgery, due to the NHS being at a stand still at present with the recent pandemic. But the land is still allocated for it.*
Details of such Developments are given on the District Council's Website. This allows for a search of proposals within parishes A 'Simple search' brings a message: Too many results found. Please enter some more parameters'. Adding the name of the small approach road initially brings up 'No results found'. Resubmitting in a different format reveals 26 applications.
One of these is for 21 dwellings. Clicking this enables the researcher to consult 63 documents associated with the application. One of these documents shows that the application has been submitted in the name of a developer and the 'Community Land Trust'. There is a third party: the Parish Council itself.
There is no notice of the application on the Parish Council Noticeboard.
On-the-ground investigation reveals a single Planning Development paper on a lamp-post within the new development.
There was however a mention in the local daily newspaper whose back-issues can be searched by those who subscribe to its online edition. It is not in a 'story' but a Public Notice alongside other submitted planning applications.
Surgery
The Parish Minutes state the new Development does not include the Doctors surgery, due to the NHS being at a standstill at present with the recent pandemic. But the land is still allocated for it.
A fundamental element of a major 'Community' scheme has been set back, the land allocated for it has become more homes. Meanwhile the window of the village Surgery contains, amongst the other notices, one that states that not doctor or nurse will now visit, though prescriptions may be collected one morning a week. A service that the village had enjoyed since 1913 has been lost without Parish notice or comment.
Land
There are other sources of information. An Auction sign stands alongside to a field beyond the village's bypass. The Auctioneer's website allows for the detailed sales brochure to be downloaded. This indicates that should development take place the vendor would receive additional payment. Should the major Road Scheme proceed as anticipated access will become far less dangerous for whatever purpose it is subsequently used. Comments on the Auctioneer's website indicates that the land sold for far more than the estimate of £60,000. It does not reveal details the new owner.
The August minutes show the site was discussed at the Parish Council meeting at which point the meeting went into a confidential session and no discussion is minuted. However the Parish Council Website has reported that the Council has bought the field to add to its other lands. It will be farmed and subsequently become 'Recreation Land'.
Expenditure
There is no mention of expenditure in the Newsletter.

The Finance Minutes shows that the Council authorised two cheques for Legal Fees totalling over £94,000. This payment may not relate to the acquisition of the land.
Community Hall
For the Parish Council website has reported the Council's success in obtaining a County Council grant of £500,000 for a new Community Hall. The local weekly newspaper reported that this would be match-funded by £1-million from the Parish Council. A search of Parish Council online minutes would seem to indicate that when this matter was discussed a years ago such a scheme was rejected as being too expensive.
Probably all Wrong
One must remember that the Council has not been able to meet between March and July and that any or all of the above may well be the result of incomplete and inaccurate 'research' by an incompetent 'historian'.
But is that not what 'local history' is about?
And how can you be sure it is not your village that is being referred to.

2020 09 Wilburton Parish Council Minutes

Wilburton Camps Field Survey
2020 09
Wilburton Camps Field Survey
Wilburton Parish Council has published the results of a survey of opinion about the Camps Field development proposed by Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust
Q1. How do you feel about the proposed development on Camp's Field?
Strongly opposed 102
Opposed 33
Neither opposed or in favour 11
In favour 16
Strongly in favour
Q2. What is it about the proposal that makes you feel this way? The way that the development has been handled 55
The way that the SWCLT has handled the project 18
Will lead to further development 14
Seems to be a for-profit development 12
Plan has been led by developers 6
Distrust in the developers
In conclusion, the respondents to this survey have shared a majority opinion of opposition to the Camp's Field development most frequently due to the scale of the development, but most are in favour of development in Wilburton generally as long as the village grows slowly. This cannot be said to be a bona fide accurate nor representative result of the views of the community primarily due to the small and easily lost invitations that were distributed. However, the majority opposition to the Camp's Field development is large, which alongside the reasons given against it being consistent with reasons being given in support of other developments, helps to support the notion of some validity of these findings as representative of the views of Wilburton.
The full report is online:
file:///G:/Report-on-Camp%E2%80%99s-Field-Community-Survey-2020.pdf

2020 09 15 FHF
News-less Newsletters, minute Minutes, holes in the Web: researching village history in 2020
With the loss of Newspapers Reporters to assess and comment on developments, local historians need to turn to other sources to attempt to collect information on which they can make their assessment of events.
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2020 10 06 SPCM
Stretham Parish Council Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 6th October 2020
Selection
19/265 Land Tenancies: Councillor Nuttall reported that a tenancy agreement had been agreed between Mr Parish and the Council for the land at A10 Stretham.
19/267 Village Centre. There was a discussion regarding possible sites for the Village Centre. (This was a confidential item and the public were excluded)
19/268 Village Centre Action Plan. The Action Plan was received and agreed (see attached).
[This report was not given on the online version of the minutes]
19/269 Village Centre Project Group. The terms of the Project Group were received and agreed. (see attached)
[This report was not given on the online version of the minutes. However information was published on the Parish Council website and in the Newsletter for October]

19/271 Planning Applications:
• 20/00848/FUM: Erection of 21 dwellings comprising 6 CLT houses and 15 open market houses, together with landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure at, Manor Farm Development, Plantation Gate, Stretham. (No objection)
There was no mention of a Freedom of Information Request – see notes above

Village Centre Update – October 2020
At the Council meeting on 6th October, the Council agreed an initial action plan covering consultation with village groups, communications plans and fundraising. The Council agreed to form 2 groups to progress the project:
The Project Group will be responsible for the design and build of the Village Centre, including the contracts, legal, financial and project governance. It will regularly report to full Council on project progress. The Centre Management Committee will be responsible for the village engagement and the long-term success of the Village Centre after completion and will include representatives from village groups who will be active users of the Village Centre. The 2 groups will work closely together to ensure that the Village Centre meets the needs of Stretham and that it is a long-term benefit to the community. The Council also reviewed the potential sites for the Village Centre and provided guidance to the Project Group on the preferred locations and pros & cons of each. We will progress the options and aim to conclude an agreement for the site so that we can progress to

designs. For future communications, as well as the Newsletter updates, we intend to have a Facebook page and a section on the Website with information about the project.

The Parish Council Newsletter for October 2020 included:
Village Centre Update
As mentioned briefly in the last newsletter, after two village wide consultations and a lot of hard work the council was delighted to hear that the application made to the Communities Capital Fund, for funding towards the Village Centre has been successful for the full amount applied for – £500,000. At the Council meeting on 1st September, the Council unanimously agreed to go ahead with the project to develop the Village Centre. The requirements and brief of the Village Centre take into account all of the feedback received from the previous village consultations.
The next steps for the project are :
• To secure a suitable piece of land for the Village Centre
• Setup appropriate financial and project governance for the project
• Secure additional funding to cover the full build costs
The Council is currently considering a number of options for a suitable site for the building.
We will continue to keep you informed on the status via the Newsletter and there will be opportunities for active members to become involved in the project.
Richard Nuttall

2020 11
Village Centre Update – November 2020
The Project Group responsible for the design and build of the Village Centre has now started work and has agreed Terms of Reference. The Project Group has set out initial governance and financial processes. We are also working on the next level of project costings and considering additional funding options. Immediate priorities are to progress discussions on suitable locations for the Village Centre and to engage architects for the project.

2020 11 03 SPCM
Stretham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 3rd November 2020
A selection from the Minutes
19/282 To receive an update on the Village Centre
The terms of reference for the Village Centre Group were read out to Councillors, it was proposed by Councillor Wright to adopt these, this was seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement.
Councillor Nuttall explained that an online document store had been set up to keep everything to do with the Village Centre and all members of the group would be able to access it. The Grant paper work has been signed and returned. Councillor Wright offered to make contact with estate agents to get a valuation for the Parish Rooms. Councillor Nuttall, explained that further funding streams were being looked at and that Architects would now be approached.

19/284 To discuss IT equipment for meetings and a change of location for the December meeting
Councillor Parish explained to Councillors that currently the Council does not have any IT equipment to do presentations on and suggested that the December meeting could be held at the Youth Centre to enable the IT equipment to be used for items such as planning presentations and to hold online meetings if required. The Council could then get a feel for how this equipment could assist in meetings. The Council agreed to hold the next meeting in the Youth Centre. Councillor Nuttall agreed to look into costs of equipment for the next meeting.

It was also agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 8th December once lockdown has finished. The next meeting of the Village Centre project group will take place on the 15th December.
19/285 To discuss what happens with decision making and Council meetings during lockdown

Councillor Wright explained to the Council that during another lockdown and while social distancing is in place, she felt it important that Council meetings should still take place and therefor an online system should be looked at. Councillor Parish explained that the Youth Club could be used as it is a smaller room and therefor all Councillors should be able to hear and any Councillors who do not have access to the internet could still meet in person.
It was decided that the Clerk would set up a test meeting on the 3rd December ready for the next meeting on the 8th, to make sure the IT system works.
19/288 Correspondence
An email was received from a Cambridge Road resident, concerned about the rats in the ditch on the recreation ground. The Council proposed that the ditch be flailed to see if this would sort the problem.
An email was received from a resident regarding the lack of a field in the village that could be used for dog exercising. The Council discussed the situation and felt that there were sufficient paths and walks in the Village that can be used and also the recreation ground.
[There is no mention of a Freedom of Information Request that was received by the Parish Council]

Stretham Parish Council Newsletter November 2020
The Council met on Tuesday 6th October – here are some of the highlights …

The field recently purchased next to the A10 has been let to the same tenant on a short-term basis while the council considers longer term options to provide a recreational access for villagers.

The map of the village which you will have seen in the newsletter in the past is being updated and will be available when finalised.

The All Weather Pitch has now had floodlights replaced with LED lights. These should last longer and use less power, saving money for users.

The Council reviewed 2 Planning Applications :
20/00848/FUM: Erection of 21 dwellings comprising 6 CLT houses and 15 open market houses, together with landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure at Manor Farm Development, Plantation Gate, Stretham. (The Council made No objection)

20/01149/LBC: Replace the 3 single glazed wooden windows on the front of the building with the same configuration at, 3 Plantation Gate, Stretham. (The Council made No objection)

The old telephone box will be cleared of ivy and repainted.

Village Centre Update - October 2020
At the Council meeting on 6th October, the Council agreed an initial action plan covering consultation with agreed village groups, communications plans and fundraising. The Council agreed to form 2 groups to progress the project:
- The Project Group will be responsible for the design and build of the Village Centre, including the contracts, legal, financial and project governance. It will regularly report to full Council on project progress.
- The Centre Management Committee will be responsible for the village engagement and the long-term success of the Village Centre after completion and will include representatives from village groups who will be active users of the Village Centre. The 2 groups will work closely together to ensure that the Village Centre meets the needs of Stretham and that it is a long-term benefit to the community. The Council also reviewed the potential sites for the Village Centre and provided guidance to the Project Group on the preferred locations and pros & cons of each. We will progress the options and aim to conclude an agreement for the site so that we can progress to designs.

For future communications, as well as the Newsletter updates, we intend to have a Facebook page and a section on the Website with information about the project.

Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust (SWCLT) update
The SWCLT has passed a major landmark with the completion of the final four affordable homes for local people at Manor Farm.
The one-bedroom bungalows in Dockey Court have been allocated to people with strong community connections and they will be moving in shortly. This brings the total affordable homes offered by the SWCLT to 23, all legally tied to the community now and for future generations.
We want to be inclusive in the range of housing we offer, so our first one-bed bungalows for affordable rent will be a great addition. They are suitable for those who may have certain mobility issues and include wet rooms for greater accessibility.
All our homes continue to benefit local people, shown recently when we were able to help one couple move up from a two-bed to a three-bed SWCLT house to accommodate their growing family. Because of high house prices they may have been forced to live further away, in a less expensive area, if not for the SWCLT homes.
These homes represent £6 million property assets and generate £12,500 per month in rents and the community is the beneficiary. The income pays for any borrowing and maintenance, but can also fund potential future community initiatives including for health and wellbeing, recreation, nature, transport and education.
The trustees are very pleased that the SWCLT model is achieving what it set out to do. It is still just the start and housing demand from local people continues to exceed supply. Planning applications have been submitted at Camp's Field, Wilburton and at Manor Farm which would see a further 42 affordable homes built for the SWCLT to help meet ongoing demand, with decisions expected later this year.
Thank you to everyone so far who has supported the SWCLT in helping local people stay in our community. For more information, visit: https://www.strethamwilburtonclt.co.uk/

Surgery
COMMUNICATION – a couple of years ago we invested in a television screen for our waiting room to serve as an "electronic notice board". With reduced numbers of patients attending the surgery, we have been looking at other ways to communicate with our patients quickly and cheaply! Thank you to the Stretham Parish Newsletter for your support and printing our updates and news, but we can only share non-urgent and general information this way. We also use the right hand side of your prescription, for announcements such as the start of the Flu Clinic season.
The PRACTICE NEWS section on our website is another place to find general information such as the poster to alert women between 50 and 70 years to watch out for their Mammography invitation.
Early on in the pandemic, we developed the use of Questionnaires so that our patients with Asthma and Diabetes can continue to receive "social distanced" clinical support. For information about Questionnaires, please visit the Online Services section of our website. We continue to encourage patients to register to use SystmOnline for requesting medications and reviewingresults. (Please note that SystmOnline is NOT the same service as AskMyGP. SystmOnline is the system that holds your clinical record and AskMyGP is the online service to contact our GPs.)
However, by far the quickest, easiest and cheapest way for us to contact patients either as an individual or as a group is by SMS Text messaging. Unfortunately, just because we have your mobile telephone number this does not mean we can send you messages. We need to have your consent first. If you already have access to SystmOnline, you can check to see if you have consented to receive messages – simply log into your account and on the home page click on "Change Contact Details" and select "Allow SMS notifications". You can also contact Reception or Dispensary by telephone and ask them to update your choice or complete this form and return it to the surgery and we will amend your record. Thank you for your help.

Stretham and Grunty Fen on Facebook is a group for seeking and sharing information on Stretham and its immediate area in the past - the past starting yesterday. It has over 900 followers from within the village and across the world.

The Group is hosted by Mike Petty who has been collecting material on the village for over 70 years.
Posts include photographs, articles, extracts from minutes and personal reminiscences
Posts include links to a wide range of Stretham material online including detailed histories, 7,000 photographs and extracts from Cambridgeshire newspapers from 1770 to date.
.Take a look for yourself - and join in the discussions

2020 12
Village Centre Update – December 2020
We have now engaged in discussions with architects for the project so that we can start the design process. We are also progressing discussions on potential locations for the Village Centre and have started to narrow the options. In addition to the Communities Capital Fund award, we are looking for other sources of funding to help finance the building

2020 12 01 Parish Council Minutes
Extracts
19/297 To discuss Village Street Signs
Councillor Taylor explained that numbers 1 – 5 Middle Close had no Street sign to say that they were in Middle Close and in fact looked like they were part of Chapel Street. It was decided that the Clerk would speak to Pam at Highways to see if anything could be done about this.
19/298 To receive an update on the Village Centre
Some land options have been looked and discussed for the new Village Centre, with 2 sites currently being discussed. It was discussed that there was the potential for a shared car park, Councillor Taylor felt this may not be the best approach. Different options currently being discussed as to what to do with the Parish Rooms moving forward. A Village Centre project meeting is to take place next week, where other funding streams will be discussed. Councillor Parish suggested looking at trying to get a Royal representative to open the new building and the Clerk was asked to get this in motion.
19/299 To discuss IT equipment for future meeting
Councillor Nuttall present a list of IT equipment that would need to be purchased in order to be able to hold remote Council meetings. Including the broadband, the total cost would be around £1,254. It was felt by Councillors that if the equipment was purchased for the Parish Rooms it then may not be suitable for the new Village centre, it was therefore decided that its would-be put-on hold until the New Village Centre is built. It was however felt that it would be beneficial to the Council and users of the Parish Rooms to get Broad Band fitted there. Councillor Nuttall explained that this would be a cost of £330 a year. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, seconded by Councillor Roberts with the whole Council in agreement.
19/300 Public Works Loan Board
"The RFO is currently in correspondence with PWLB, and gave a brief outline of the current application process"
19/301 Planning Applications:

20/01553/FUL – 13 Green End, Stretham. Rear extension, front porch and internal and external alterations. The Council made no objections to this application.
20/01515/FUL – Gravel Farm Yard, Newmarket Road, Stretham. Proposed extension to existing storage container yard. The Council made no objections to this application.
20/01516/FUL – Gravel Farm Yard, Newmarket Road, Stretham. Proposed development of an agriculture building. The Council made no objections to this application
19/302
Expenditure

K. Bolderson	750.25	Clerk
A. Melton	703.48	RFO
Notice Boards	1385.28	

The council received a letter from Pamela Hicks on behalf of Stretham Youth Club, requesting financial help from the Parish Council, for a new roof.

The RFO suggested that the Parish Council commissioned the work as a Parish Council Project. The cost of the work has been quoted at £35,844.32 + VAT.
The RFO reported that if the project was commissioned by the council, the VAT would be recoverable. Members agreed to the proposal, the RFO would liaise with the Youth Club regarding invoicing and obtaining the initial sum of £35,844.32 as a donation from the Youth Club. The Parish Council would be in receipt of all guarantees and Building Control certification. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Roberts, with the whole Council in agreement.

2021 01 05 Parish Council Minutes
Stretham Parish Council Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 7:00pm Online via Teams

Extracts

19/311 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 5th December 2020 Please see attached Action list update. ***[This was not attached to the online minutes]***

19/313 To receive an update on the Village Centre
Discussions with architects for the project have begun, so that we can start the design process. Discussions on potential locations for the Village Centre are ongoing, with 2 sites now in the running. In addition to the Communities Capital Fund award, other sources of funding to help finance the building are being sought.

19/314 To discuss the precept
The Precept report was read out by the RFO. It was proposed that there be a rise in the precept from 65k to 70k, which would mean an increase of 7.9%. It was explained to Councillors that the Precept had not been raised for a few years. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/316 To receive planning application decisions
20/01399/FUL – 44 Cambridge Road, Stretham. Proposed extensions and alterations to existing dwelling, including new front wall and gates. This application has been approved.

19/317 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Last bungalow has now been occupied. Planning permission is due at the beginning of this year. And progress has started to be made again on the doctor's surgery.

19/318 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income

STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2021

Balance at the Bank:
Current Account 51,568.39
Business Instant 20,003.29
Village Centre Fund 90,002.82
32 Day Notice 67,318.18
£228,892.68

19/319 To receive Correspondence
An email was received from a concerned resident regarding the ditch at the back of Wilburton Road. The ditch is in need of being cleared, it was felt that due to it not being done and all the heavy rain we have had that this was a contributing factor to flooding. Councillor Roberts also mentioned other ditches around the Village that need to be cleared. The Clerk to find out who's responsibility these ditches are and to work from there in getting them cleared.

19/322 To receive Councillor Questions
The Bench on the corner of Short Road needs repairing.
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 in the Parish Rooms
[This is the wrong date]

2021 02 02 Parish Council Minutes
[This is a copy of the minutes sent to Parish Councillors]
Extracts and comments
19/326 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 5th January 2020
Please see attached Action list update. ***[This was not included]***
19/327 To discuss ditches and flooding
The Clerk explained that a meeting is to take place between the Highways Flood and Water Department and the Drainage board to look at the ditches, to find out who is responsible for them. Councillor Roberts told the Council that he had been to take a look at the ditches, the CLT one is running well, however the catch ditch that leads down to the river is very overgrown and in need of being cleaned out. Spencer Clerk has said ECDC are responsible for that part and will be dredging it out up to the concrete bridge. The steel flap that opens at the bridge that allows water to drain into the river also requires fixing. Councillor Roberts to update on progress at the next meeting.

19/328 To receive an update on the Village Centre
Three emails have been received by the Clerk from Councillors to open up discussions on placing the Village Centre at the recreations ground. The majority of Councillors voted to put the Recreation Ground down as another possible location. It was proposed by Councillor Wright to get block drawings down on the site at Manor Farm and the recreation ground done and bring to the next meeting to discuss, this was seconded by Councillor Williams with the whole Council in agreement.

19/329 To consider planning applications
20/01640/FUL – Amberside Stretham, Station Road, Wilburton. The Council made no objections to this application.
19/330 To receive planning application decisions
20/01553/FUL – 13 Green End, Stretham - approved
20/01515/FUL – Gravel Yard Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham - approved

19/331 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
All properties are now occupied, just waiting on planning permission consent for P4.

19/332 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2021
Income
ECDC 476.43 Grant
ECDC 2001 Grant
ECDC 4000 Grant
Lloyds 0.18 interest
Lloyds 0.52 interest
£6479.13

Expenditure
Salaries etc 2095.35
ECDC 54 d/d
B/Gas 51.99 d/d
EoN 51.75 d/d

B/Gas 56.62 d/d
B/Gas 29.61 d/d
L. Shearing 737 Newsletter
£3,076.32

Balance at Bank
Current Account 54,930.34
Instant 20,003.47
VPA 90,003.34
32-day 67,320.83

Total £231,257.98

An email was received from a member of the public, asking if the land owned by the Council at Lt Thetford was up for sale, the Council said no.
An email was received in connection to the state of Kisbys walk. It has a lot of holes and looks unfinished. Councillor Roberts said he would take a look.
[There was no mention of an Email seeking Freedom of Information]
Councillor Parish informed the Council that a Marquee has been donated to the Council and will be kept in the cemetery shed.
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd March 2020 online Via Teams.

2021 03 02 Parish Council Minutes
Extracts
19/340
Public Participation. Mr and Mrs Guest asked a question regarding a proposed meeting with CCC Highways and Drainage Boards regarding flooding, it was reported that the meeting had not yet taken place.
19/342
To discuss ditches and flooding. Councillor Roberts reported that most of the work regarding the clearing of ditches had been carried out, work was on going.
19/343
Local Highways Improvement Bid (LHI). Members unanimously accepted the proposal for improvements to Newmarket Road, to slow the speed of traffic entering the village. The total cost is: £19.661.52, of which Stretham Parish Council would pay the sum of £4661.52.
19/343
To receive an update on the Village Centre. Councillor Nuttall reported that the project group were awaiting further negotiations with potential land owners. He also reported that the group had agreed to the drawing of a block plan to inform any negotiations regarding building on the Recreation Ground.
19/346
To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. All properties are now occupied, just waiting on planning permission consent for P4. Councillor Roberts confirmed that demand was still high.
19/347
Balance at the Bank:

Current Account	50141.75
Business Account	20003.63
VPA	90004.06
32 Notice	67323.39
Total	227472.83

It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement. By a unanimous vote, members agreed to pay £4,661.52 contribution towards the Newmarket Road LHI bid, this was an increase of

£3161.52 recorded in the budget. The RFO reported that this can be paid from cash balances and would not affect the whole budget.
19/348
To receive Correspondence. Members received a letter and petition from residents of Manor Farm regarding their objection to possible siting of the Village Centre next to the proposed doctor's surgery. Members rejected the petition. Members agreed that once sites had been identified for the siting of the Village Centre, it would be a matter for the whole village to be consulted upon.
19/351
The bench at Short Road had still not been repaired.
Councillor Roberts reminded the Council that the register of Community Hub Material held by ECDC was about to be renewed. Members agreed that the Village Pub should continue to be registered.

2021 04 06 PC selection
Stretham Parish Council Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th April 2021 at
19/356 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 2nd March 2021. Please see attached Action list update. [not included]
19/357 To discuss ditches and flooding
Outside number 9A Newmarket Road, a tube has been laid under the kerb feeding into the ditch.
19/358 To receive an update on the LHI Bid
The bid has been accepted, subject to a meeting in June.
19/359 To receive an update on the Village Centre
A block drawing has been completed on the Pavilion to show the impact it would have on the recreation ground. A meeting is to be set up with the College to progress that SWCLT site.
19/360 To discuss the AGM for May 2021
The RFO read out the legislation regarding Council meetings. Face to Face meetings will not be allowed to take place until after the 7th May. The AGM will take place on the 4th May where the Chair and Vice Chair will be elected, along with the Sub – Committees. The public part of the AGM will take place in September, this was agreed by all Council members.
19/361 To discuss a Memorial Tree for the recreation ground
A resident has asked if a memorial tree could be placed at the recreation ground in memory of their husband, this was proposed by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Markham, with the whole Council in agreement.
19/362 To consider planning applications
20/00873/FUL – Lazy Otter, Cambridge Road, Stretham. Change of use of land to site additional holiday caravans incorporating landscaping and biodiversity enhancement proposals. An amendment was received regarding this application, to reduce number of new caravans from 5 to 2. The Council objected to the original planning application, and their position still stand. This was proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Saunt, with the whole Council in agreement.
21/00295/OUT – Site North East of 15 Newmarket Road, Stretham. Construction of 1, two-bedroom, single storey dwelling. Before the application was read out to Councillors, an email from a resident objecting to the application was read out. The Council objected to this application on the following grounds;

- Over development of the site
- Limited access, no access to garages due to other property owners parking spaces
- Biodiversity concerns as the land has been wild for some time with nothing on it
- Inadequate sewers
- No access to the site without digging up other resident's drives
- Not enough space for lorries to get to the site

This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Saunt, with the whole Council in agreement.
21/00456/FUL – 1 Rose Meadow Park, Stretham. Create new access to cross verge and ditch with timber gates. The Council made no objections to this application.

21/00360/VARM – Site East of Chear Farm, Ely Road Chittering. Small amendment to the trim at the base of the glasshouse and a colour change from Anthracite Grey to Moss Green for elements. The Council made no objections to this application.
19/363 To receive planning application decisions
20/01516/FUL – Gravel farm Yard, Newmarket Road.
19/364 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
No update was given
19/365 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement. [there is no list of payments]
19/366 To receive Correspondence
An email was received from a resident regarding the ditch between the Bowls club and the property on Cambridge Road. The Clerk to speak with Councillor Roberts and find out who's responsibility it is. It was also reported that behind number 3 Starlock Close there is a tree growing in the ditch and holding the water back.
An email was received from a resident asking if they could organise a Classic Car show, the Council agreed in principle however they require to see risk assessments and insurance details. James Gilbey has asked if he could bring the fair to Stretham again at the end of May beginning of June.
19/367 To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees
Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee – The Sub – Committee have been looking at the year end figures. Income is above budget due to Covid grants. The Sub – Committee are looking into electronic banking; the Website domain has been renewed until 2030.
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th May 2020 online Via Teams.

2021 05 06 Stretham Parish Council selection
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2021 at 7:00pm
Online via Teams
19/371 To elect the Chair and Vice Chair of Stretham Parish Council
Councillor Parish was voted in as Chair of Stretham Parish Council, Councillor Roberts was voted as Vice Chair of Stretham Parish Council. [no proposers or seconders]
19/373 To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th April 2021 are an accurate record
A resident from Petersfield, asked Councillors what was happening with the road. After speaking to Highways, the resident was informed that it would not be adopted as the road was not built to standard. Councillor Roberts to take this action away and investigate and report back to Council.
19/375 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 6th April 2021
Please see attached Action list update. [not included]
19/376 To elect Sub – Committee members
Parish Councillors decided which Sub – Committees they wished to be on, below is a list of the Sub – Committees and its members.
New Village Centre Sub - Committee
Councillor Parish
Councillor Nuttall
Councillor Roberts
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Saunt
Councillor Wright
19/377 To discuss ditches and flooding
Councillor Roberts and the Clerk to look at the ditch next to the Bowls Club, Awarding ditch at the back of Fieldside and the ditch behind Starlock Close. It was proposed to add ditches to the Footpath and Highways Sub – Committee.
19/378 To receive an update on the LHI Bid

The bid has been accepted, subject to a meeting in June.

19/379 To receive an update on the Village Centre

A block drawing of the Village centre has been done. Councillor Nuttall is still chasing Laragh Homes and The College to set up a meeting to discuss land for the Village centre. Invoice to go out for the 3rd part of the funding, this should be in towards the end of May.

19/380 To discuss Stretham Football Team

Another complaint has been received regarding footballers and spectators urinating in the ditches around the recreation ground. It was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, seconded by Councillor Wright with the whole Council in agreement, that the Clerk will write to the manager and inform them that this is anti – social behaviour and if it happens again, it will be reported to the Police.

19/381 To consider planning applications

21/00529/VAR – Site South of 17 Short Road, Stretham. To vary condition 3 (external materials) of previously approved 19/00479/FUL for construction of 1 four-bedroom, detached dweling, detached double garage, parking, access and associated site works. The Council made no further comments on this application.

19/382 To receive planning application decisions

21/00222/FUL – 11 Chadwick Way, Stretham. Proposed single storey rear and first floor extension and internal alterations.

21/00303/FUL – 29 Petersfield, Stretham. Garage Conversion.

21/00480 – Land South of Chittering, Green End, Stretham. A balanced cut and fill operation to form a winter storage agriculture irrigation reservoir for 500,000 cubic meters of water.

19/383 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT

A letter was received from SWCLT, the Clerk read this out to Councillors;

Within the SWCLT Rules, rules D7.2 and D14.2 state that: Any Board member retiring under rule D14.1 having completed nice years continuous service on either the board of the CLT and/or the board of a group member shall not be eligible for re-election until the next following annual general meeting or, if later, for at least twelve months after completing such service

Section G12 of the Rules is entitled Amendment of Rules and means the Trust is able to follow a process to amend the Rules, the first step being gaining approval from the custodian members which are Stretham Parish Council and Wilburton Parish Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Nuttall to agree to this change, with the Parish Council Suggesting that the SWCLT consider amending their constitution to enable a rotation of trustees. This was seconded by Councillor Parish, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/384 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income

STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCE REPORT - MAY 2021

	Income			Expenditue		
ECDC	35000	Precept	Salaries	2278.77		
M.D. Bell		20	Advert	EoN	50.63	Power
Lloyds	0.15	Interest	L. Shearing		737	News
Lloyds	0.76	Interest	R. Nuttall		497.1	I.T Reimbursement
Bowls	200	Rent	B.Gas	58.49	Gas d/d	
			ECDC	54	d/d	
			PWLB	2719.38	Loan	
	35220.91				6395.37	

Balance at the Bank

Current Account: 48077.98
Bus/Inst Account: 20003.93
VCP Account: 90005.51

32 day Account: 97327.89

Total 255415.3

It was proposed that Councillor Nuttall would put the detail of the current Precept details in the Newsletter. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Taylor.
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Roberts, with the whole Council in agreement. [payments not itemised]
19/385 To receive Correspondence
An email was received from the Neighbourhood Watch asking for a donation of £45 for signs for the Village. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts to accept, Seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole Council in agreement. The Council asked the Clerk to find out what other areas of the Village are covered by Neighbour Hood Watch and how you get areas added.
19/386 To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees [none]
19/387 Items for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting
To discuss progress on ditch clearing
19/388 To receive Councillor Questions
Councillor Clark asked if the Pumping engine board in Jubilee Gardens could be updated or removed.
Councillor Saunt reported that the hand rail on the Wakefield Way bridge is loose.
Councillor Taylor asked why the whole of the verge at the allotments was not being fully cut.
Councillor Roberts explained that where the ditch had been dredged and left on the verge not levelled out. The Clerk to ask Spencer Clerk at ECDC to level it out.
The meeting closed at 8.28pm
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st June 2022 at the Parish Rooms, High Street Stretham.

2021 05 07
Copy of the application Stretham Parish Council put in to Cambridge County Council in respect of the Stretham Village Centre.
Although this is not strictly confidential, Stretham Parish Council ask that you do not redistribute the application or publish it without our permission.
We certainly understand your interest in the project and as a local historian, but would like to ensure that messages about the Village Centre are given in the right context.
Note that some of the financial figures have changed since the time of the application and are under regular review as the project progresses, so should not be taken/quoted as current.
Finally, lots has changed since the application was made, so we expect changes to the timelines and other plans as the project goes along.
We have recently had some positive news about the progress of the project and hope to be able to share that soon via the Newsletter.
If you are looking to document the Village Centre project as it progresses, it would be interesting to have a discussion about that when we get to the next stage of the project.

Funding
The capital costs related to the building are estimated to be £1.5m in total. See Appendix 3 for detailed cost breakdown. We are requesting £500,000 from the Communities Capital Fund. The remaining £1m will be provided from other sources.
See Appendix 3 for detailed breakdown of funding sources.

Criterion 1 Criterion 1 – Are there key issues within the community that this project will address? For
example, loneliness, isolation, poor adult skills, obesity etc.
What data/evidence do you have to support this? You may wish to use
www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk, provide details of community surveys or any other

information.

Evidence of community need.
In March 2016 the Parish Council asked residents of Stretham to complete a survey in order to gain feedback and ideas on how to improve the facilities and resources available at the Parish Rooms and to make the Parish Rooms a more attractive venue for the Community.
It was clear from the responses to the survey that the Parish Rooms are not fit for purpose as many barriers to use were identified. Therefore it has been identified that a new community building is the way forward in providing a beneficial useful resource That will have a positive impact on our developing and growing community, which could be used by many existing and new community groups and providing a focal point within our expanding village for events of all kinds.
In March 2018 a second village wide survey took place in order to give the Council useful feedback from the community on potential uses of the new Community building and what the benefits of having a community space will be to the village. The feedback was vital to the Council as it was used to form a view about the design and potential uses of a community facility and would help inform the next stage of the decisionmaking process. The age range that took part in the survey was 7 – over 90 years. The project was put on hold due to lack of available funding.
Issues the community identified with the existing village hall include:
1. Has no car park
2. Needs new roof
3. Poor facilities
4. Access
5. Size of hall
6. Outdated facility
7. Not child friendly
8. No outdoor room
9. Dull
10. Drab and dark
11. Needs handrail on the path
There is no possibility of improving our existing village hall that was built in the 1870's and modernised in the 1960's due to:
Not being able to provide a car park - there is no room for one.
Not able to increase the size of the hall - there is no room for expansion.
Needing to replace the asbestos roof – expensive.

This is the wish list from the community before the community facility is a possible reality, or with any professional input.
Just this week (25-May-20) the lady who is leading the scrub and mask making project in the village in response to the Covid 19 crises, stated that if there was a sewing group in the village it would be very popular with all ages – this would make a great intergenerational project. A project that could easily happen if we had the Village Centre.
Existing and potential groups and organisations who would use the building are:
• Cubs, scouts, beavers
• Women's Institute
• Village drama group
• SOS singers (over 60's singing group)
• Young @heart (over 60s social group)
• Mum and Toddler groups
• Sewing group
• Men's Shed group
• Mothers Union
• Village speed watch group.
• Yoga classes
• Dancing classes
• Parish Council meetings – full council and sub committees

• Public meetings
• Poll station for elections
• Information/advice drop-in sessions
• Indoor bowling
community appeal and use
As well as developing community led projects we would expand our existing community led projects that aim to develop a sustainable 'cultural' model of where community members mental health promotion stems from community and organisational participation that values, enables and links up social inclusion, informal and formal learning.
The community themselves will be encouraged to be involved in the creation of projects, which they would be empowered to set up and run. This will foster a sense of pride, achievement and belonging. As well as increasing the opportunity for volunteering in the village.
Frequent community use throughout the year
The village centre would be set up so that it can be used 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year. The Social Club side of the building and the community café would also be open to residents every day. The building will be a hive of activity with people coming and going to activities meeting friends at the Social Club or community café or just popping in to look at the notice boards. Grab a leaflet or just to relax in the well thought out communal areas in the grounds of the centre. Where dog walkers can also relax

Criterion 2 – How will the project address inequality of access to services or activities? Is there a lack of similar facilities/services within your area?

Evidence of how the lack of current facilities impacts the community
Having to travel outside the village for family celebrations and get togethers.
• Lack of communal space to meet up.
Cambridgeshire Insight shows higher than average numbers of older residents in the 50 – 75 range and those with limited mobility - as Stretham is a rural village with poor transport links, having to travel outside of the village for services, help and advice is a big issue for the elderly and those without transport.
No way of combating loneliness or isolation as there is no facilities or resources to offer solutions in the village.
The population of 2,003 (2018 figures from Cambridgeshire Insight) is growing quickly with the recent addition of the housing at Manor Farm, yet the village facilities are not improving at as mentioned are increasingly unsuitable as a Village Hall.
How the community locally will benefit from having the project
Feedback from the surveys that took place tell us that the residents feel that they will have the following benefits from having a village centre:
• Promotes community
• Gives Opportunities to get together both old and new community members
• Useful to have a room in the village you can hire
• Strengthens community
• Provides an opportunity for residents to meet, bond and build relationships
• Provides a resource to encourage activities
• Very important to have a focal point for meetings in the centre of the village
• Being able to do things closer to home
• Having a reasonably priced venue for residents to access
• Hub of the village
…

Criterion 3 – How will the project incorporate local community involvement in its design and implementation (including formal groups such as parish councils)?

The Parish Council is made up of elected residents some of whom having roots going back in the village for many generations. There are also councillors who are new to the village, this will enable a balanced approach by all to the project.
Working with SWCLT (Stretham and Wilburton
Community Land Trust – See more in Appendix 4), whose approach knits in well with the ethos of the village centre model, as the SWCLT is a community led housing organisation, the village centre will be a community led social empowerment and enablement project.
We strongly believe that our proposal fits well with the Think Communities approach of building and strengthening a resilient community and the new Village Centre provides a place where people can feel safe, healthy, connected and able to help themselves and each other.
The Village Centre project will reinforce the relationship between the Parish Council, the SWCLT and Stretham Village and act as a focal point for village activity.
Evidence of working with the local community to deliver the project
It is planned that a third consultation process would take place if this application is successful.
This consultation process would include:
1. Consultation with all village groups and organisations including the pupils at the primary school and attendees to the youth centre.
2. A planning for real exercise at the annual village Feast Fayre where over 2,000 attendees (mostly village residents) will have a say in the design of the building and the landscaping. There will also be an opportunity to put ideas forward for activities that could take place in the centre, which residents will be empowered to run. With support if needed, following our sustainable "cultural" model.
3. Strategies will be in to place to ensure it's not just those who talk the loudest and most frequently that are heard in our consultation process. We will be inclusive, as a key purpose of this project is to reduce and prevent isolation and loneliness in the community.
4. We will also use the Parish Council newsletter, that goes to all households in the village, to inform and update the community on the project and to constantly remind them of how they can communicate with the council their thoughts and wishes.
5. If this project got the green light, very quickly the social club management committee would be formed from the local community who would start shaping the clubs identify and functions as well as fund raising for equipment to furnish the facility. Having the community involved from the start will empower the community, creating ownership and a robust, sustainable facility.
6. The village drama group already have a management committee and so would also fund raise for any specialist equipment needed.
7. A management committee for the village centre would be formed made up of representatives of all the user group so that their voices are the ones directing the development and running of the building. This will ensure the centre is run by the community for the community.
8. An art heritage project before the build would-be run-in order to create a collection of artworks – could be photos or sculpture etc or a mixture. The theme will be "Together we are strong". The artwork would bring all ages and cultures of Stretham together to work on pieces to decorate the newly built centre, that reflect past and potential times when the village has worked together (i.e. current Covid 19 crises). This project will promote and recognise resilience in the community and a sense of place, a place where the community belongs, as its theirs.

Criterion 4: What level of match funding is being, or will be achieved (noting that external match or match via community action will score higher than match from other CCC sources)?

In addition to the funding from this application, we will fund the building as follows :
A loan from the Public Works Loan Board for £640,000. We currently have an existing loan from PWLB, (for the current Parish Rooms) but this is nearly paid down and would be paid off before completion of this project.
We have identified other sources of grants from which we expect to receive a total of £100,000 grants
Due to the success of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust in building houses in Stretham, the Parish Council has received more than £50,000 in funding from the Community

Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds that have already been received and are help in a reserve account specifically for this project.
We intend to hold a number of local fundraising initiatives to raise at least £10,000 towards the cost of the building and have sufficient reserves to cover any shortfall in the local funding.
The existing Parish Rooms which have been shown to be not fit for purpose will be sold during this process, with an expected net income of £200,000

B. Stakeholders / Partners
Are you working with other organisations to deliver the project? Please provide details

SWCLT as above and procurement of land needed. We have approached the SWCLT about the village centre project, They are very interested and have started investigating obtaining land near the site of the new village doctors surgery for the project.
Youth Centre as an organisation can access the views and desires of the children and young people of the village to inform the management committee and Parish Council.
Social Club – as above
Community Café – a friends of the Community Café created to help with menus and form a body of volunteers to run the café

C. Impact
What difference to the community will this project make? How many people do you think will benefit as a result of the funding?

Mental health services have historically developed around medical models of practice; typically involving referral of individuals that are thought to have mental health problems. For logistical reasons mental health services are unable to fully address the scale of need. Having a village centre that enables the community to run their own cultural projects that have been self-identified to address need will enhance the community's ability to be resilient and self-educating.
Having ownership of the project will enrich the community with a common goal promoting community cohesion by working together to create a positive outcome.

D. Internal and External Factors
What could have an impact on what you plan to do?
What are the key risks and how will you overcome them?

Impacts :
• Lack of funding
• Lack of community engagement
Risks : See Risks and Mitigation below

Key Risks and Mitigation
Risk Mitigation
Insufficient Funding
The project cannot proceed without the funding from the Community Capital Fund
Initial Cost estimates
Previous discussion with an Architect has given an indication of costs. Careful project control and early engagement with Architect and Quantity Surveyor will ensure costs are well understood
Lack of community engagement
Ensuring good communication on progress and opportunities will keep the community engaged. Having the cultural model in place will ensure a sense of ownership and belonging to the project from the start.
Building Cost overruns
A contingency amount is included within the building cost estimates. Careful project control will ensure we keep within budget.

Inability to purchase suitable land
A potential site has been located in conjunction with the SWCLT and is under consideration for the building location. The project cannot proceed without a suitable location
Project Cashflow
Milestone drawdowns from funding sources will ensure that funding is available at the right time for each phase of spending, keeping cashflow risks to a minimum.

Appendix 1 : Requirements and Architect Brief for Stretham Village Centre
(Note for Context: This Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 were provided to an architect in order to receive initial advice on feasibility of the Village Centre and to provide an indication of costs for the project)
Stretham Parish Council are considering building a new Village Centre within the village to replace the current Parish Rooms which are not considered fit for purpose.
We have already consulted the village through three separate surveys and the following requirements and brief are derived from the responses to the survey and other planning meetings.
Separately, we are progressing with development of a business case for the new building and considering funding options.
To assist with the business case and the plans, we require an initial architect drawing sufficient for us to obtain cost estimates. At a later stage we will commission the engagement for the final architect drawing and oversight of the building project.
Building Requirements
Main Hall, able to seat up to 150 people. To have a raised Stage at one end (ideally removable when not required), suitable for drama and similar performances. Floor of main hall must be suitable for exercise or dance classes.
• Smaller meeting room
• Catering standard kitchen
• Social Club room, with shared bar
• Function room, sharing bar with the Social Club. Can be used in conjunction with main hall for large functions
• Toilets. Suitable facilities, including disabled toilets.
• Storage facilities (at least 2 separate areas, one for Council, one for other regular users of the storage. To include storage space for folding table & stacked chairs to be used for functions
• Clerk office, room for 2 desks and storage space for the Parish files
• Terrace / outdoor area attached to the main hall to allow events to spill out onto the terrace in good weather
• Foyer area (near to the Clerk's office)
• Parking area for users coming by car
• Boiler room / Cleaners' closet
• To have an eco-friendly / self-sustaining building which minimises operational running costs
• A caretaker's apartment, close to or attached to the Hall
• An apartment suitable for letting out to visitors / tourists to generate income to cover costs of the Hall
Options - Style
We are considering a style that either:
• Fits into a rural landscape; or
• Is a clearly modern, iconic and distinctive building
Deliverable results
• An initial architect drawing sufficient for us to obtain cost estimates, in electronic form
• A presentation of the drawing, concepts and ideas to the Council

Appendix 2 : Sketch Drawing of Village Centre

Appendix 3 : Financing details

This section sets out the estimated total capital costs of the building, and the funding sources providing the capital for the construction, including the contribution requested under this application.

Building Capital Costs	Amount	Description
Land Purchase	£ 100,000	Purchase/Consideration for land to site the building
Building ground floor	£ 960,000	Main hall, Community Centre, Social Club
Building First Floor	£ 240,000	Caretaker flat, flat to let
Fitout	£ 200,000	fixtures and fittings
Total Costs £ 1,500,000		
Funding Sources		
Public Works Loan	£ 640,000	Loan from Public Works Loan Board
Community Capital Fund	£ 500,000	Grant from Community Capital Fund (this application)
Grants & funding	£ 100,000	Grants from other local sources
CIL Funds	£ 50,000	Available CIL funds held on account by Stretham Council
Reserves & Local Fund raising	£ 10,000	Funds from Council reserves and village fund-raising vents
Sale of Parish Rooms	£ 200,000	Sale of the existing Parish Rooms building
Total Funding	£ 1,500,000	

The funding would be required at set milestones as detailed below. These milestones and figures are subject to discussion with other funding sources such as the PWLB.

Milestone	Amount	Purpose
On signature	£ 20,000	Architect fees, Planning Application, Legal fees
Planning approval	£ 50,000	Planning, Design, Deposits, Quantity Survey
Land purchase Agreement	£ 100,000	Land purchase
Building Start	£ 200,000	Building Phase 1
Building Phase 1 Complete	£ 130,000	Building Phase 2
Total £ 500,000		

In addition to the capital cost estimates of the project, we have done a number of models of the income model for the Village Centre and estimate annual expenditure of approximately £85,000 per annum, covering Utilities, Maintenance, wages and PWLB repayments. This would be covered by net income contributions from the use of the rented flat, plus use of the facilities, including Social Club, Community Café, the Main Hall and the Meeting Rooms.

Appendix 4 : Stretham Parish Council relationship with Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust

The Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust (SWCLT) was setup in 2011 by the Stretham and Wilburton villages, making it Cambridgeshire's first Community Land Trust.

The aim of the SWCLT is to give the people who live or work in the villages more say over how to develop locally and in ways that could benefit the whole community.

SWCLT has so far delivered 23 affordable homes in the Manor park development in Stretham and has recently submitted outline planning application for a 115 home development at Camp's Field of which 35 are affordable homes.

The Stretham Parish Council has been a strong supporter of SWCLT and has provided funds to SWCLT to cover costs of architect fees and planning as well as taking over ownership, management and insurance of open areas of the Manor Farm development such as the green spaces and play park.

The buildings of the SWCLT have generated CIL funding for Stretham in excess of £50,000 which we will be putting towards the Village Centre project.

In addition, we are working with the SWCLT to secure a suitable site for the Village Centre.

The ongoing collaboration between the Stretham Parish Council and SWCLT clearly demonstrates how we work with, within and for the benefit of the local community and we strongly believe that

our proposal fits well with the Think Communities approach of building and strengthening a resilient community.
The Village Centre project will reinforce the relationship between the Parish Council, the SWCLT and Stretham Village and act as a focal point for village activity.

More information on SWCLT is available at https://www.strethamwilburtonclt.co.uk/

2021 05 07
Ian Phillips <Ian.Phillips@peterborough.gov.uk>
Fri, 7 May, 13:23
Dear Mike,
The application was submitted by Stretham Parish Council and I know that they would prefer it if you contacted them to request any paperwork, or raise any queries. Richard Nuttall (richard@nuttall.me.uk) is the person I've been dealing with and he tells me he would be happy to share more details with you if you would like to get in touch.
I hope that's ok, but any problems please let me know.
Ian
Ian Phillips
Head of Communities and Partnerships Integration

2021 05 07
to Ian
thank you;
I have previously asked for this from Stretham Parish Council Clerk under a Freedom of Information Request without success. Perhaps another 'official' may be more forthcoming.
The application seems not to have been minuted - one of a number of unrecorded items from this period.
Mike

2021 05 07
Ian Phillips <Ian.Phillips@peterborough.gov.uk>
Fri, 7 May, 16:47
Thanks Mike, if you do get any problems please come back to me. I can't see any immediate reason why we couldn't provide under a FOI, but hopefully the parish council will be able to answer your questions.
Regards
Ian

2020 05 10 EM
I have now been sent a copy of the Stretham Parish Council application to the County Council in respect of a Community Hall. I am concerned at a number of statements and omissions

The Council states
There is no possibility of improving our existing village hall that was built in the 1870's and modernised in the 1960's due to: Not being able to provide a car park - there is no room for one. Not able to increase the size of the hall - there is no room for expansion.

However they did not mention that there is a large area of unused land adjacent to the existing Parish Hall including a former Tithe barn. This has the potential to provide an extension to the existing facility with adequate car parking in the centre of the village. The Council does not mention that it owns a Pavilion on the Recreation Ground that has been a financial liability for years:

The Parish Council Newsletter for June 2016 reported

For a number of years, the Parish Council has been looking at ways to improve the financial income to the Pavilion (SSRC – Stretham Sports and Recreation Centre) at the Recreation Ground. The Council inherited the Pavilion and SSRC as a charity from a defunct trust. Currently, the Parish Council receives rent from Stretham Sporting FC and Stretham FC but this income does not come close to covering the expenditure which includes the insurance, the caretaker's fees to clean the building and the utilities. The main room at the Pavilion can also be hired out as the WI does on a monthly basis. The fact that the Pavilion is a financial burden to the Parish Council has been raised a number of times at audit. The Parish Council fully supports keeping the facility open for sporting uses however must look at ways to increase income if the venue is to remain open.

The Parish Council sought the views of the community on potential uses to mitigate the losses the Council incurs. The idea of a Community Café was investigated however a suitable person to take this on could not be found. The provision of a child-care nursery has been suggested by a local family and the Council completed a Feasibility study to ascertain if this would be possible. All indications are positive that by extending the Pavilion building to increase floor space and then letting the improved pavilion to the nursery at a commercial rent, the Pavilion will be profitable and enable the Council to keep the pavilion changing rooms open for the use of visiting sports teams.

The Council instructed Architects to draw up floor plans and a local builder has provided an initial costing. Negotiations are progressing well and the Council are now at the stage of instructing solicitors to draw up Heads of Terms for the extension to the Pavilion and commercial lease of the building and communicating plans to the village. The scheme was rejected as too expensive. The building continues to be a financial liability and largely unused.

There are in addition meeting places in the School, Youth Club Hall, the Bowls Pavilion and the Conservatory at the Red Lion which, pre-Covid, was regularly used by a Tuesday Group of residents for coffee and meetings.

The Council's preferred site for a hall is at the very edge of the village as part of a development promoted by the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust whose Chairman is a member of the Parish Council. That development promised a Doctor's Surgery and buildings for light industry, neither of which have been constructed. Residents of the new Manor Farm Estate have petitioned the Parish Council against a Community Hall in their area even though no details have been made public

A Parish Council minute from August 2020 reads:
Councillor Saunt had been asked to raise the issue of the adverts and information in the Village Newsletter in the August addition. Why has the Youth Club a full-page advert when information regarding the Councils committees has been squeezed into less than half a page and is difficult to read. Surely it is more important than an advert. Does the Council not wish residents to know who does what?
I attach a couple of photos, one showing the area adjacent to the Parish Hall, the other the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground. I've added a third showing a detail of the roof of the Parish Hall; it was taken in October 2020 and remains unrepaired.

2021 06 01 Stretham Parish Council selection
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 7:00pm
Parish Rooms Stretham
19/394 To receive an update regarding ditches and Flooding
A pipe has been laid at the edge of the path to allow water to drain away. The Clerk and Councillor Roberts took a look at the ditches. It has been arranged to get the level of the ditch on the recreation ground (Cambridge Road side) to see which way the water is draining and to see what parts need digging out. The ditch behind Field Side needs to be Slubbing out all the way along and the tree removed that is in the middle of the ditch. Councillor Roberts is due to meet with the drainage board to find out who is responsible for the maintenance of the ditch. Actions left to do, the pipe that runs

under the Stretham roundabout needs clearing out and the ditch near Toll House. Once all work is complete, a map is to be drawn listing who is responsible for what ditch.

19/396 To receive an update on the Village Centre
A verbal agreement in principle has been made regarding land available at Manor Farm for the siting of the new Village Centre. A meeting to be held with Architect to go through the brief for the centre, from there drawings can be done. The money received from Cambridge County Council will be used for this. Aiming for planning permission to go in, in September. Councillor Nuttall to film a video diary of the progress of the centre. It was proposed by Councillor Nuttall that the Council take the next steps for the centre and that the funding was is used for the Architect drawings. This was seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.
Councillor Parish to set up the management committee.

19/397 To consider planning applications
21/00729/FUL – Former Haulage Yard, Newmarket Road, Stretham. Proposed redevelopment of depot including erection of nine dwellings and highways improvements. The Council objected to this application, due to the land being contaminated. This was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Roberts with the whole Council in agreement.

19/398 To receive planning application decisions
21/00529/VAR – Site South of 17 Short Road, Stretham. To vary conditions 3 (external materials) of previously approved 19/00479/FUL for construction of 1 four bed detached dwelling, detached double garage, parking, access and associated site works. This application has been approved.
21/00493/VAR – To vary conditions 1 (approved plans) and 6 (biodiversity improvements) of previously approved 20/01515/FUL for proposed extension to existing storage container yard. This application has been approved.

19/399 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Early discussions are going ahead with the trustees for the Village Centre. AGM was held last week. A vote of no confidence has been taken in Wilburton with regards to Wilburton Parish Council. A vote will now take place, run by ECDC.

19/400 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement. [no details of payments]

19/402 To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees [none]
19/403 Items for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting
Laragh Home to come and give a presentation.
19/404 To receive Councillor Questions
There is a Willow Tree down Wakefield Way that is split. The Clerk to ask Luke to take a look.
A letter to be sent to 7 Newmarket Road to ask them to cut the hedge back from the path.
The Clerk to ask the Fair if any holes are left, they need to fill them.
The meeting closed at 8.07pm
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th ***September*** 2021 at the Parish Rooms, High Street Stretham.

2021 06 04
Council accused of violating ‘principle of democratic consent” faces confidence vote
An unusual – if not extraordinary – attempt to oust an entire parish council culminates in a parish poll on June 10. More than 1,000 villagers in Wilburton will be asked to endorse or reject confidence in the nine councillors. It follows the results of a survey in 2020 that showed a majority of villagers opposed a complex housing proposal by the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land

Trust. Outline planning for 115 homes at Camps Field is being considered under a scheme drawn up by the trust in conjunction with Laragh Homes and endorsed (at the time) by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. Eighty homes – including five self-build plots – are included with 35 additional homes being described as 'affordable'. It is also backed by East Cambs Trading Company, the commercial arm of East Cambridgeshire District Council. Despite their own survey opposing the scheme, the parish council endorsed support for the scheme – prompting an outcry from protest group Save Wilburton from Overdevelopment. And at the annual parish council meeting last month, and on a majority vote of 18-2, a parish poll was supported. Save Wilburton from Over Development says their group is concerned about lack of democracy and accountability. Their spokesperson said: "Wilburton Parish Council asked our community a question in a survey - do you want 115 houses built at Camps Field by Laragh Homes? "The community responded - it very clearly said 'no thank you'". The spokesperson recalled that the survey received 179 responses, from 99 households: 102 strongly opposed, 33 opposed, 11 neither opposed nor were in favour, 16 in favour, 17 strongly in favour. "The parish council decided that the 33 who were 'in favour' represented our community, rather than the 135 who 'opposed'", said the spokesperson. "We feel this violates the principle of democratic consent. "That is why a vote of no confidence was called, and why it passed 18-2 at the full-room annual parish meeting." The group says it is run by no individual, receives no backing from any individual, and is beholden to no one. It says: "The issues are important for our village. Democracy matters. Consent matters. Community matters. "We all love Wilburton. Save Wilburton thinks that the Camps Field plan will harm our village, but most importantly, we believe in democracy, accountability, transparency and consent. "It is the purpose of the parish poll (to be held on Thursday 10th, 4pm-9pm) to allow Wilburton to have its voice heard." The group says it has been "disappointed and saddened" by personal attacks on a village Facebook group. They point out that the right for 10 (or more) electors to call a parish poll is enshrined in the Local Government Act 1975. "This Act is there so that communities can address questions relating to democratic consent in a proper fashion," it says. The parish council says simply that "there was a vote of no confidence at the annual parish meeting and this is the poll that was demanded". And they reminded residents that everyone on the electoral roll can vote. The parish council is made up of an employed clerk and nine volunteer councillors. Last year Charles Roberts, who chairs the CLT, said: "We have engaged, we have held exhibits and the community has helped shape these plans. "This will be a high-quality development with a focus on green space and amenities that the whole village can enjoy." Mr Roberts is a former leader of East Cambs Council and until last month was the £56,400 a year part-time housing adviser to former Mayor James Palmer. But he has remained "passionate in defending the SWCLT because I know what is at stake here". He said: "Local, often young people, are being failed by the housing system and forced out of the place they call home through no fault of their own. Mr Roberts believes the opposing group has staged a "concerted attempt to torpedo these CLT homes by any means".

2021 06 11

Where now for Wilburton?

The question uppermost in most villagers minds after a parish poll failed to offer a vote of confidence in its parish council. Just under a third of villagers voted in the June 10 poll, deciding by a narrow margin against the parish council.

The question was posed as to whether the village "has confidence that the current Wilburton parish council acts in a way that is democratic, accountable and transparent".

The poll was called following the results of a survey last year and subsequent decision by the parish council to support the Camps Field housing development. The polling station at St Peters Hall in Wilburton opened at 4pm and closed at 9pm. The verification/count venue was at St Peters Hall in Wilburton. Verification was completed, and the turnout was announced as 30.03 per cent," said a statement from East Cambs Council that oversaw the poll.

At 9.40pm, the deputy counting officer for East Cambs Council, Emma Grima, declared the result.

*The total number of ballot paper counted was 310.

*The number of votes cast in favour of a YES was 148.

*The number of votes cast in favour of NO was 160.

*The total number of rejected ballot papers rejected was 2.

“The question has been rejected,” she announced.
Save Wilburton from Overdevelopment, the group that backed the call for a poll, said in a statement afterwards: “Wilburton Parish Poll Vote of No Confidence passed.
“A majority felt that Wilburton Parish Council has not acted in a democratic, accountable and transparent manner.” At the heart of the issue is whether the parish council (already depleted in numbers) was right to back the 115 homes proposed for Camps Field – that includes community land trust housing - despite their own survey showing opposition to it.
The parish council survey received 179 responses, from 99 households with 135 opposed to it and only 33 in favour.
The council wrote to East Cambs Council supporting the scheme.
“The councillors of Wilburton parish council discussed the application and are unanimously in favour of the application,” was their verdict in an email to the district council last May. That decision led to a vote of no confidence being passed at the annual parish meeting in April of this year. The formal parish poll yesterday followed.
Outline planning for Camps Field is being considered under a scheme drawn up by the community land trust in conjunction with Laragh Homes and was endorsed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. Although the parish council has no direct say in whether the scheme will be approved, the essence of community land trust developments is that they must show evidence of local support. Former East Cambs Council leader Charles Roberts chairs the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust (SWCLT) and has been a major campaigner to win over the village. Indeed, part of his remit in his most recent role – that of the £54,000 a year, four day a week housing adviser to former mayor James Palmer – was to develop the community land trust model. SWCLT has told East Cambs Council that it is satisfied the scheme was initiated by, and is being led by, a “legitimate local community group” and has “general community support, with evidence of meaningful public engagement”. With the results of a parish survey and a parish poll now in, that contention looks seriously challenged.
An eve of poll leaflet circulated around the village was headed ‘Make Wilburton Nice Again!”. That may not, judging by the social media comments in recent hours, be anytime soon. Save Wilburton from over development believes that fresh elections are needed for the parish council. They believe these "are likely to hold the promise of community reconciliation and provide a better grounds for democratic consent regarding decisions about the future of our community. "We would hope that if new elections took place, a representative group with lots of diverse opinions would put themselves forward, and then would be better placed to help the village come together and put all this regrettable upset behind us." Ely Standard online

2021 06 28 ES
Residents resist housing estate that like Topsy keeps on growing
It was hailed by the then housing minister Kit Malthouse as a “great example of community led development funded by smart land value capture”. But that was three years ago. A fourth phase of the community land trust development at Stretham looks more problematic and is coming under increasing scrutiny.
Laragh Homes, land owners Peterhouse College, and the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust came together seven years ago to deliver the first homes. But some residents now living there feel that not all the early promises are being delivered.
There has been delays over relocating the GP surgery to the Manor Farm estate. And concerns have been raised about poorly maintained roads through the estate and the noise and disturbance caused by expanding the number of homes. A year after an application was submitted for a further 15 open market homes and six community land trust homes, East Cambridgeshire District Council is yet to decide it.
Kay Walsh is a resident at Manor Farm and believes the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land trust (SWCLT) has been “less than truthful about life on this development”. She said: “We have several issues with them the most important being that the main road through the development has not been built to an adoptable standard.”

Mrs Walsh says that have contacted the SWCLT chairman, former council leader Charles Roberts, and claims he “tried to dismiss our claims but highways have confirmed the truth”.
She says phase four could finally see the GP centre built together with a new £1.5m village centre but these would require access over an unadopted road through the estate.
“The CLT affordable housing will potentially have to foot the bill for maintenance of a road used by 1000s of visitors to the GP surgery,” she said. “From Manor Farm's perspective we feel like the SWCLT and planning are not being transparent or taking the road issues into account. The new phase also requires the main spine road to cross a public footpath with no plans in place to show how this will be done. It feels like a disaster waiting to happen with the path being regularly used by cyclists and dog walkers.”
County highways supports that claim, telling the district council last November that “the layout of the site is not suitable for adoption due to the widths of the internal roads and proposed layout”.
They, too, agree the site to be accessed from Manor Farm development crosses a footpath which has a public right of way. And this requires a resolution. But that’s not the only complaint.
One resident told the council they moved into their homes at Petersfield in 2017 and for over three years have had “noise and machinery disturbance from building activity and plant machinery movement”.
The resident says machines can start daily at 8am, including Saturdays and occasionally even on Sunday, and “the house often shakes”.
There is anger, too, over unsurfaced roads with raised manholes preventing discharge of rain water.
“It just runs down the street, taking the mud with it: the pathways are incomplete too,” says the resident. They fear with phase four they could be in for another two years of disturbance and incomplete roadways.
“The fourth phase was not in the planning” the resident pointed out to planners, inviting them to find an alternative access to any extension of the development. I pay my council tax and a large fee to the community land trust for maintenance of an unsightly mess and I am fed up with it,” the resident added.
Another resident told planners; “When we bought our house the plans stated a development of 75 homes in three phases, which is what we now have. No mention was made of further houses being added.”
Manor Farm Residents Association says they were told last September that surfacing of Petersfield would be “completed imminently”. But the association says nothing has happened. “Many residents have had punctures and tyre damages," says the association. “Each month we have asked Laragh when the road will be surfaced. Their stock answer is ‘imminently’.. Dissatisfied with this repetitive answer we contacted highways and discovered that the road will not be adopted as it is not to adoptable standard.”
Laragh Homes says the current development will conclude with 79 houses, 23 of which will affordable homes owned and managed by SWCLT. The original proposal was for 50 homes, some small commercial units and a GP surgery, amenity space including a new village green and an extension to the existing cemetery to the north of the site.
“The delivery of the GP surgery was reliant on NHS funding secured through a local GP practice” it says. “The NHS have requested a larger facility to meet future health needs and this could not be secured within the timeframe of the first two phases. The proposed location for these facilities has been relocated to a larger site to the north of Plantation Gate, which now has outline planning permission. The planning application for the release of the reserved matters for the GP surgery & commercial units will follow once NHS funding has been secured.”
Laragh says through negotiation with local landowners the CLT was able to secure additional land to the east of Sennitt Way and this became Phase 3 of development, now under construction.
Next will be phase four that will include six affordable rented homes with the 15 market homes funding them.

2021 07 01 ES
Ex-mayor’s s £100k homes utopian dream in tatters
Former mayor James Palmer’s £100k homes scheme – vetoed by his successor - lay in ruins tonight after it was revealed that the first eight to be built remain empty.

Completed before Christmas, not one of the properties at Fordham is occupied. Palmer's successor, Dr Nik Johnson, remains perplexed but unable to discover why hold-ups have prevented anyone from moving in. Dr Johnson has scrapped any future £100k homes, saying he has always "struggled to understand the model".
My investigations show that banks and building societies might be struggling with the concept, too, since I understand all the delays have been due to conveyancing issues. I have spent weeks trying to interview the first occupants of the Fordham homes, following a promise made at the beginning of last year by Palmer's former housing adviser, Charles Roberts. Mr Roberts said the first new owners of the £100,000 one-bed flats at Fordham would move in by Christmas and he planned to invite me to interview them. However, when Mayor Palmer left office in May – taking Mr Roberts with him – no call or contact with any of the lucky eight purchasers had been arranged. Those eight had been selected, on merit, from a list of more than 200 initial applicants. On June 21, I again asked the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CAPCA) if anyone moved into the Fordham homes. It took until today for a response – and an apology for the delay in responding. "I'm sorry for the delay in replying to your emails," said a CAPCA spokesperson. "Please accept my apologies."The spokesperson confirmed that "you are correct -to date no one has moved into £100k Homes at Fordham. And the spokesperson added: "we are trying to find out what the hold-up might be". Other £100k homes in the pipeline will be allowed to complete – including four at the former Alexander House office complex in Ely. Mayor Dr Johnson said: I will look at how we can move forward with the existing parts of the project that are beyond recall, and look to deliver those houses that exist in one form or another. But I want to curtail the process quickly so that I can look at other ways to deliver socially affordable housing."
Mayor Palmer had promised expansion of the £100k homes model whereby first-time buyers could get on the housing ladder with a formula to ensure an equitable split of profits when people sell up and move. Labour criticised the £100K Homes policy, arguing that the need for affordable housing in the county ran into the thousands. Labour said that "the waiting list for houses in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is over two thousand families. At a rate of two houses per year, it would take Mr Palmer's £100k scheme one thousand years to house these families". The party also said £8 million in loans were taken for the building of these £100K homes from the precious £100 million central government funding intended for the building of two thousand affordable homes in Cambridgeshire. "No wonder that the government blocked £45 million and potentially prevented one thousand new affordable homes because– as they wrote to Mr Palmer – the value for money of the programme he is running has failed the test of good use of public money."
Mr Palmer had argued that Labour were "scared to death of the £100K Home policy because when they used to be a party of the working class, they used to put forward policies that help the working class. Now they are a party of the rich liberal elite, they have completely lost touch with what the other people, working people, need". He added: "£100k Homes are the homes that our people want and need and the policy that we have had over the last 20-30 years, the national policy, simply hasn't delivered what the people need."
The Fordham flats form part of a much larger housing scheme at the Rayners Green estate. At a topping out ceremony last year, Mr Palmer said: "This is a truly momentous occasion, the birth of the first £100K homes."

2021 07 06 Stretham Parish Council Minutes selection
19/406 To receive declarations of interests and to consider requests for dispensations
Councillor Murfitt, Councillor Parish, Councillor Speed, in relation to the voting of Stretham Charity Trustees.

19/408 Public Participation
Many residents were in attendance at the meeting.
One resident commented on the fact that it stated in the Newsletter that the budget had been discussed at June meeting, when it had not. Councillor Nuttall explained this was put in the wrong section of the Newsletter and it had been discussed at the May meeting.

Many residents came to discuss the plans for the siting of the new Community centre and the doctor's surgery. Councillor Nuttall explained that a number of sites had been discussed and looked at and the site at Manor Farm had the most benefits. The Council were asked if public consultation regarding the site was going to be sort.

19/409 To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 1st June 2021. Please see Action list update. [not given]

19/410 To receive an update on the Red Lion being added to the Community asset list
The Clerk asked the Council if they would like to re–submit the Red Lion Public House to the Community Asset Register with East Cambs District Council. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Saunt, with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor Taylor suggested putting this on the Rolling Calendar.

19/411 To receive an update regarding ditches and Flooding
The pipe at the East side of the recreation ground has collapsed and therefore not draining away. This ditch was last cleared around 11 years ago. Int the Autumn it will require sludging out, with the water forced to flow back towards the roundabout. A map of the award drains to be sought from the Drainage board. The ditch behind Fieldside is ongoing, a meeting still to be held with Drainage board.

19/412 To receive an update on the LHI Bid
The funding has been agreed for traffic calming measures to be put in place from Wicken into the Village.

19/413 To receive an update on the Village Centre
The Following proposal was presented to the Council.
Village Centre Project
Proposal to Council – July 2021
Proposal : Stretham Parish Council agrees to progress the Village Centre project through to planning permission, based on the Design Brief, the Plantation Gate location and the sketch plan provided by the Architects. The Village Centre Project group will continue to report project progress to full Council meetings.
Planation Gate proposal Benefits
The proposal has a number of benefits:

- Strengthens and supports the relationship with SWCLT
- The location and design allow a good-sized Village Centre, with a flexible building able to support a number of different functions
- Potential costs reduction through building work synergies and site acquisition
- Costs reduction through not requiring a caretaker flat

Alternatives
There is an alternative location option – the Recreation Ground – but this location does not have the benefits of the Plantation Gate site and has a number of issues:

- Site would occupy a large part of the Recreation Ground
- Disruption during building work
- No synergy with other buildings (e.g., surgery, work units) and building work
- Traffic and parking issues along Short Road

Next Steps
If the proposal is approved, the next steps are:

- Meeting with SWCLT to discuss/agree Heads of Terms – planned for July
  - Followed by final Agreement on land
- Meeting with Laragh homes to discuss/agree Heads of Terms
  - Followed by Agreement Project management and initial view on costs
- Regular communications out to Stretham via Website and Newsletter
- Pre-planning meeting with ECDC

- Architects to progress designs to detailed stage
- Initial meeting of Village Centre Management Committee
  - This is the group responsible for running of the Village Centre after opening
- Preparation for Planning Permission

Target Project Timings:

- Planning permission Oct 2021
- Building Work Jan 2022 – Dec 2022

It was proposed to go ahead with the plans and progress the Manor Farm site, this was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Roberts. The Council voted with 8 votes for and 3 against.

19/414 To consider planning applications
21/00746/FUL – 8 Top Street, Stretham. Demolish Sheds located at No 8,10,12 and 14. The Council made no objections to this application.
21/00541/FUL – 4 Old Orchard Lane, Stretham. To erect a 4x6ft Pitched roof Wooden Shed on a concrete patio in the rear lawn of house. The Council made no objections to this application.

19/415 To receive planning application decisions
21/00170/FUL – Land East of 34 Meadowcroft, Stretham. Construction of 1 three-bedroom, two storey detached dwelling. This application has been approved.

19/416 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
A meeting is to be scheduled between SPC and SWCLT.

19/417 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement. [there is no list of payments]

19/418 Presentation of annual audit report
The RFO presented the audited accounts to the Council. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Roberts to accept and sign the accounts. The Whole Council were in agreement.

19/419 To receive Correspondence
An email received regarding damage to AWP, the Clerk informed Councillors that the maintenance was due to take place and would add it to that.
An email was received regarding the land east of 15 Newmarket Road. It is very overgrown and affecting residents trying to get into their gates. The Council apologised and said there was nothing they could do.
19/421 Items for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting
Due to there being no August meeting, Councillors were asked if it was ok to pay any invoices and wages, with a balance sheet being provided at the September meeting. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, seconded by Councillor Clark with the whole Council in agreement.

19/422 To receive Councillor Questions
The following trustees were elected to stand on the Stretham Charities by Stretham Parish Council, their term of office has now expired. Councillor Wright proposed that they all be re-elected to stand. This was seconded by Councillor Roberts with the whole Council in agreement. The Trustees are Keir Petherick, Janet Parish and Peter Speed.
It was asked that the Action log be sent to all Councillors. Footpath up to the river needs cutting.
The meeting closed at 8.39pm
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th *September* 2021 at the Parish Rooms, High Street Stretham.

2021 07 06
Email to Bill Hunt,
Whilst walking through Manor Farm Estate I noticed a planning notice about the conversion of a garage. I read in the Ely Standard of proposals to build a number of houses in a field nearby.
Is there a notice about this anywhere?

2021 07 14 ES
There is no argument that England football captain Harry Kane has become one of the most well-known athletes in the world. But for one namesake who moved to the Fens, sporting prominence on the global stage was already on the horizon.

Harry Kane, thought not to be related to the Three Lions' skipper, was one of a number of Jewish children who evacuated to Cambridgeshire after the Second World War, many of those living in Stretham. “Harry lived on Short Road and we went to school together,” John Baylis, who lived near Harry, said. “He went to Stretham primary school then to Soham Grammar School, but I did not see him much after then.”
Born in London to an Orthodox Jewish family, Harry’s mother and younger brother were both killed in a house fire when he was 10 years-old.
After moving to Stretham to live with Alfred and Gladys Reeves, Harry made his mark at Soham Grammar School in athletics as he began to take part in inter-county competitions. “Harry went to the school where he is remembered as an excellent sportsman,” Cambridgeshire historian Mike Petty said.
“He took part in the school athletics in 1947, beating Robert Norman of Haddenham.” Robert Norman sometimes ran in events alongside Harry, who was in the same house as him at Soham Grammar School after first meeting each other on the school bus. “He was a normal lad, nothing extraordinary but strong,” Robert recalled. “He used to race in the cross-country event and we raced against your age group. He probably assisted me with points at school championships. He was a keen competitor and compared to the current Harry Kane, I think he would have the same demeanour.”
Having been spotted while at Hackney Downs School in London, Harry then went onto compete at international competitions, and with it came success. In 1952, he won the 120 and 200-yard hurdles events at the British Athletic Championships, followed by victory in the 400m hurdles at the Maccabiah Games in Israel in a record time of 50.50 seconds. His record-breaking feats did not stop there, though. Aged 21, Harry was in action at the British Athletics Championships in the 440-yard hurdles event in 1954, setting a British record and came second at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games the same year.
“Harry Kane returned to Stretham several times to visit the couple with whom he was evacuated,” Mike said. “One such visit was reported in the Ely Standard for September 1955, shortly after success in an international athletics match against France at Bordeaux.”Harry’s brother, Gerry, also came to visit the area.
Les Gotobed was one resident who knew Harry and used to keep an eye on his progress. "John knew him and we went up the road to watch Harry hurdle jumping on the television,” he said. “He was a tall fella’ with dark hair. Everybody knew everybody then; as soon as you got a stranger in the village, you asked who they were. “Harry said ‘hello’ to you when he went by. The evacuees knew nothing about the village and kept themselves to themselves.”
Perhaps one of Harry’s greatest achievements was representing Great Britain at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, competing in the 400m hurdles.
After winning silver in the 200m hurdles, he then won the 400m hurdles at the Maccabiah Games a year later. But the skills he learnt and his persona towards others while at school were important on his path towards sporting glory.
“He integrated into the school fairly well, he wasn’t bullied; he looked after himself,” Robert said.
Harry was not short on intelligence, either, according to Les, who said if you went to grammar school, “in that day, you had to be pretty good to go there.”

A friendly man away from the track, Harry moved away from Cambridgeshire as his athletics career progressed, but he did not fail to leave a lasting impression. “He was quite good at football and must be around 85-90 years-old,” John said. “When we had sports days in the village, he won the running and hurdle races; he was a nice lad.”
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2021 08 Parish Council no meeting

2021 08 03
Caravans arrive at Stretham Recreation Ground
Around 17 caravans have been spotted on Stretham Recreation Ground, less than 24 hours after an illegal encampment was moved on from Waterbeach. East Cambridgeshire District Council’s housing and community advice service said it is working with the parish council and have provided the encampment with dustbin bags. A Stretham Parish Council spokesperson said: “There are currently around 17 caravans. “The parish council has instructed a bailiff company and they have been on site with the police." The spokesperson said today (Tuesday) the encampment was still in place despite being given until Monday evening to leave or the bailiff company would do so. Ely Tigers Rugby Club reported that caravans have been spotted at their ground on Downham Road this evening. It is unclear whether the caravans are linked to the encampment in Waterbeach. ES

2021 09 07 Stretham Parish Council selection
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7:00pm
Parish Rooms Stretham

19/426 Public Participation
A resident was in attendance to report to the Council that there were youths congregating in the bus shelters, leaving broken bottles and some graffiti has been sprayed on the bus shelter on Newmarket Road.
A representative from the Stretham Christmas lights committee was in attendance. The group has now had 2 meetings and come up with some great ideas on Christmas lights for the Village, quotes have been sort for lights and a Christmas tree and the group would love the Councils support. This would be a one-off payment, as other fund-raising events will be taking place for next year.
A resident came to the meeting to explain that he was having to cut down a 60ft Weeping Willow tree. He would like to plant some trees to make up for the loss of this one and was thinking about having somewhere in the Village that memorial trees could be planted.
A resident came to ask why nothing had been reported about the meeting between the SWCLT and the Parish Council, Councillor Nuttall gave an over view on what happened at the meeting.
19/428 To discuss recreation ground security
Councillor Parish (Chair) wanted to thank the Clerk for all of the work that was carried out regarding the encampment on the recreation ground. Councillor discussed ways in which to make the recreation ground so vehicles can not access it, only via the gates. It was suggested that a ditch be put round the entire recreation ground, or the grass mounds be built up. It was agreed that both options would be expensive and not aesthetically pleasing. It was proposed that a ditch be put round, this was support by 2 Councillors. It was proposed that more mature trees be put around the recreation Ground to stop vehicles getting on and that posts be put either die of the gate. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Clark, with 6 Councillors voting for the proposal.
19/429 To receive an update regarding ditches and Flooding
Councillor Roberts informed Councillors that when the ditch round the recreation ground was last dug out it was done by Meads, the Clerk to get a quote to have this done again and to ensure that all much is taken away.
It was agreed the Councillor Roberts would look into the ditch behind Wilburton Road and find out who needs to get it cleared to stop flooding this winter and that he would complete a map of all award drains.
19/431 To review and agree the Heads or Terms between SPC and SWCLT

The Heads of terms were read out to the Council, it proposed to agree the HOT by Councillor Nuttall, seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/432 To receive an update on the Village Centre
A Village centre meeting is to take place in October.
19/433 To consider planning applications
21/00860/FUL – The Light House 13 Chapel Street, Stretham – No objections made
19/434 To receive planning application decisions
21/01027/FUL - 23B Reads Street Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3JT - Approved
21/00865/FUL - 9 Newmarket Road Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3JZ - Approved
21/00360/VARM - Site East of Chear Farm Ely Road Chittering Cambridge - Approved
21/00746/FUL - Demolish sheds located at Nos 8, 10,12 and 14 Top Street – Withdrawn
21/00729/FUL - Former Haulage Yard Newmarket Road Stretham Cambridgeshire - Rejected
21/00628/FUL - 20 Reads Street Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3JT - Approved
19/436 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
Councillors were given a report of all cheques that were paid in August. [not listed]
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole Council in agreement.
19/437 Presentation of annual audit report
Put on the agenda in error
19/438 To receive Correspondence
An email was received from a resident regarding the ditch behind Wilburton Road, Councillor Roberts to look into who is responsible for clearing.
A resident asked if it could be arranged for the top of the hedges to be trimmed in Jubilee gardens. The Clerk to arrange.
An email of complaint was received from a resident, the email raised a number of points. The Clerk and Councillor Roberts to reply to the email and send on to Councillors.
An email was received from the Stretham Christmas Lights Committee asking for a one-off donation of £5,895.77 to start the Christmas lights. The Council proposed to give the one-off funding to the group as a kick start, the money will be taken from the Covid Grants the Council received. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.
19/439 To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees
Footpaths and Highways Sub – Committee – The Clerk to write to 29 Reads Street to ask for their hedge to be cut back from the path.
Amenities Working Party Sub Committee – The Clerk and RFO dealing with the damage to Jubilee Garden fence. There will be a Christmas Farmers Market on the 18th December.
Recreation Ground Sub Committee – A meeting has taken place, the seats on the swings need replacing and the floor of the park at Sennit Way needs to be replaced. Councillor Taylor to speak with Mrs Watts Clerk of SWCLT to see if funding could be sought.
19/441 To receive Councillor Questions
It was asked why the job of clearing out the bus shelters was not advertised, Councillor Parish explained that it was a care takers responsibility so was handed to Jamie.

2021 10 03 Cambs Times online
A council leader described former metro mayor James Palmer's housing policies as "a complete and utter disaster".
Cllr Bridget Smith, leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, said she didn't hold officers of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CAPCA) responsible. They are responsible to politicians. Her criticism came as housing director Roger Thompson said that after March 31, 2022, the government "had no current affordable housing funding support" for combined authorities. He said: "Without a funding source it is probably fair to say that the prospects for the

combined authority engaging and influencing the affordable housing market beyond March 2022 are severely limited".
Cllr Smith said devolution was sold partly on the basis of £100m for affordable housing. Describing the loss of a third of that, she told mayor Dr Nik Johnson: "It is a scandal mayor and I would appeal to you there needs to be proper investigation how this scandal occurred." "It is a disgrace and it is very difficult for me to explain to my residents how £26m was lost, meant to be housing for them."
She said many of those in South Cambs – people for instance working at Addenbrooke's - could not afford to live locally. Having to live miles away and commute was damaging to their health.
Cllr Chris Boden said that in Fenland lives had been "transformed" by affordable housing that had been provided. He told Cllr Smith: "With respect your area is the least deprived area in the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough". Cambridge City Council leader Lewis Herbert, accused the former mayor James Palmer of putting £40m into a 'revolving loans' policy without government approval. He described as "stupid" the loan to Laragh Homes to build flats in Forehill, Ely, despite four earmarked as affordable. Hunts Council leader Ryan Fuller accepted the term scandal was appropriate for what had happened "but the biggest scandal is nothing to come next".
East Cambs Council leader Anna Bailey said a much criticised £40m revolving loan fund brought in by the former mayor was "still doing its job and could still be doing its job".
She accused critics of "political manoeuvring" and invited them to consider the damage they were causing to CAPCA's reputation and this has been a complete and utter disaster, a fiasco," she said.

2021 10 05 Stretham Parish Council selection
19/443 To receive declarations of interests and to consider requests for dispensations
Councillor Markham in regards to agenda item 10
19/445 Public Participation
Light up Stretham group gave an overview on how the committee are getting on. The Clerk to assist with gaining a Seasonal Licence. The Council to keep funds for the committee in a holding account, while the group sets up and sorts a bank account.
A resident asked for an update on the ditch on Wilburton Road from the A10 to the roundabout. Councillor Roberts to hold a meeting with Mr Parish to discuss further.
19/447 To receive an update regarding ditches and Flooding
Councillor Roberts to meet with Mr Parish to determine which drain is award drain 4.
19/449 To receive the quotes for the Village Street furniture painting
3 tenders were sent out, only one received back for the amount of £800. It was proposed to accept the tender, this was proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Speed with the whole Council in agreement.
19/450 To discuss the tree project and Eleanor's field Councillors Roberts, Markham and Clark to start project, with research into what the parish currently has and areas that could be improved.
19/451 Scouts and the Pavilion Main Hall
Council discussed the proposed agreement for the Scouting Group to use the Pavilion on an exclusive basis.
It was decided that the Scouting group would have soul access to the main hall. Heads of terms were read out; it was decided that the charge would be 6 months for free, £500 for the following 6 months. Year 2 £1000 and year 3 and thereafter £1500. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Council Speed, with the whole Council in agreement. Action: Councillor Nuttall to finalise Agreement and arrange signatures.

19/452 To discuss Charity Trustees
Peter Saunt has resigned from the Charity trustees as a Parish Council nominated trustee. Councillor Markham will now be on the board on behalf of the Parish Council.
19/453 To receive an update on the Village Centre
Councillor Nuttall noted that the Village Centre designs now have added detail and are at a suitable state to seek consultation with relevant user groups and villagers. Councillor Nuttall proposed that a

budget of £5K - £10K be allocated from the existing Village Centre funding towards the consultation. This was seconded by Councillor Speed with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor Taylor wanted her concerns in the minutes that neither the Parish Council or SWCLT currently do not own a small proportion of the land needed for the proposed Village Centre. This is currently being negotiated with Peter House College.
19/453 To consider planning applications
21/00634/DISA – Flexon House, 93 Stretham Road, Wilburton – No objections
21/00991/FUL – 95 Stretham Road, Wilburton – No objections
21/01330/VARM – Stowbridge Farm, Green End – No objections

19/454 To receive planning application decisions
21/01098/FUL – White Gables, Stretham – This application has been approved.
19/455 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT. No update given.
19/456 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income. It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement. All Councillors were giving a copy of the budget to take away and review.

19/457 To receive Correspondence
A request has been put in for a dog waste bin on feast green, the council approved.
An email of complaint was sent to the Council, the Clerk read this out. The Council asked the Clerk to respond and inform the resident that her points were noted.
Councillor Parish asked if a history of the SWCLT could be put in the Newsletter for residents to read.
19/460 To receive Councillor Questions
Middle Close footpath – Clerk to ask for it to be cleared.
Cage Lane Sign rusted
Could the PC lamp posts be included in the painting contract
Could the font size in the Newsletter be made larger?
The meeting closed at 9.01pm
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at the Parish Rooms, High Street Stretham.

2021 10 08 Stretham Residents Facebook Group
Just wondered what you think about the proposed new Village Centre? It's going to be built at Manor Farm on the Plantation Gate side. It's going to be huge and cost £1.5 million to build with approx. £85k maintenance/running costs per year, that's like £1600 per week, just wondering how it's going to generate that sort of money?
… They should be having a consultation with the community, but not see anything. if the costs above are true. Then yes going to be hard to hot the running cost target of £1600 per week. you would need a few clubs using the place everyday and booked up for events every weekend.
… appendix 3 of the funding applications states, 'In addition to the capital cost estimates of the project, we have done a number of models of the income model for the Village Centre and estimate annual expenditure of approximately £85,000 per annum, covering Utilities, Maintenance, wages and PWLB repayments.' https://strethampc.org.uk/.../Stretham-Parish-Council...

2021 10 11
A similar post to the Strethambay Facebook Group brought much more response. This is a brief selection
Stretham Community Centre comment
https://www.facebook.com/groups/162239757705306/permalink/931858930743381/
Just wondered what you think about the proposed new Village Centre?
It's going to be built at Manor Farm on the Plantation Gate side. It's going to be huge and cost £1.5 million to build with approx. £85k maintenance/running costs per year, that's like £1600 per week, just wondering how it's going to generate that sort of money?

I applied to be a Councillor last year but unfortunately , and as I was the only person to apply within the specified time scale, the council decided to open the date further and invite someone to join, then proceeded to let me know I was unsuccessful. I would have preferred to be told I wasn't suitable rather than the underhanded way in which they concluded their decision. What a shame they continue to conduct business behind closed doors, failing to provide adequate information on the website and in the meeting minutes, therefore residents feel they are inadequately informed. What a shame they failed to consult the whole village re the Village Centre, like the said they would back in March as mention in the March minutes.
… What a shame there aren't more people with your knowledge posting here in support of the PC. And what an even bigger shame the PC aren't in touch with such strong feelings of the residents of Stretham.
… interesting how many councillors are reading these comments, by them liking your comment, but not publically offering any explanations to the queries from the people they are meant to represent
… My complaint email was responded to but in my view not resolved but they're clearly happy to just acknowledge my points and note them. Rather disappointing to be honest but I didn't expect any better. I have no faith in them, not from the start and not now, which is such a shame.
… I'm new to Stretham bay, but not to the vlllage, having lived here since 1976. I'm so saddened and appalled by some, although not all, of the recent remarks directed at our SPC. … Our Parish Councillors are not some remote group of Whitehall mandarins, cocooned from the real world, they are Stretham villagers, just like us, next door neighbours maybe or friends. Some, I know, were born and bred in the village, but regardless of how long they've lived here, they have a common bond and that is to volountarily serve this village. They deserve our support, not brickbats and abuse. Touching briefly on the question of the new village centre, and do we need one, yes, we certainly do and the obvious site is Manor Farm. There is no place in the village for such a building, the recreation ground is a rare and precious green public space and should surely stay that way. Yes it does sound a lot of money but we deserve a lovely building and planned and developed with the latest technology, it will cut down on running costs such as heating/lighting. And on that subject, I wonder if … could enlarge on her projected approx. runnimg cpsts of £1,600 per week.. If she didn't calculate these figures, maybe she would be kind enough to tell us who did. Also to the lady who questioned the need for such a building in a village with only one shop, pub, etc, the existing residents and newcomers, many more expected in the near future need better and bigger amenities, and nothing wrong with small commercial units. I'm sure there are artisans and entrepreneurs in our midst who would jump at the opportunity to have a small business in their home village. Imagine buying freshly baked bread then calling in at the coffee shop for a cuppa and a good old chat. I've seen this working so well in other villages. What's not to like!! Warm welcome to all newcomers
… the figure of £85k per annum was in a funding application by the parish council last year. I don't know if that's the latest estimate of running costs. It is a lot of money but it's not a problem if it can be covered by the centre's income. If the council could provide some of the evidence and reassurances that this can amount of money can be raised per year, that would be great, otherwise it could fall on local taxpayers to fill the gap.
… I understood from a parish councillor that they had not put forward any figures, which is the reason for me querying it. I shall contact them on Monday and try to clarify what may be my misunderstanding
… It all sounds wonderful doesn't it? Fresh baked bread and even pastries, a coffee in the cafe, Ia modern purpose built building for the village residents etc, I welcome this, very much so as something is needed for the village to bring it out of the 50's! In answer to your question directed at me, if you take a look at the proposals by the Stretham parish council you will see that THEY have projected £85k per year running costs. Now, I got my calculator out and divided that figure by 52, which is the amount of weeks we have in one year, and it threw out a figure of over £1600 per week. It's a lot of money, isn't it? And doesn't seem right, so I am really mystified too?! Could you tell me why you believe it should be on built on manor farm, I'd be interested to hear your opinion/thoughts? I would happily support the parish councillors, as I truly believe, like you, that they are humans trying to do their best, and on a voluntary basis too, which is commendable. Unfortunately I, and others here, do not have faith in them, not anymore. Unfortunately they have

lost their way, let's say shall we? Unfortunately I haven't, and by reading some of the posts here, nor have others, been treated with respect by them.
… I do feel though, Stretham does need to be dragged, kicking and screaming, out of its 50's era now, I mean come on we're in 2021 and we all use computers, smart phones and THE CLOUD!
… I'm not sure of anything as it seems lots we do not know goes on within the council. However they're the figures provided. Here are some. [table not copied] I agree projects take time and can suck up money. Which is why I'd rather the parish council not gamble more of our council tax on things which they have not consulted the residents on also stuff which people on the council clearly have no experience of, like renting fields.
.... I myself served on a sub division of the parish council for the comeback of the feast "the feast comittee" and during my time on this although many years ago the attitude was the same, I was young and hungry for change and making the village better. 99% of the ideas I came up with were denied any chance mostly because of costs , but then a few on the committee whom were serving parish councillors came up with ideas costing ridiculous amounts of money provided by "friends" and.... guess what's fund's were available. It seems to me the PC is still very much the same as back then, that there is a minority calling the shots and what they want goes. Myself and others often got involved to try and make the village a better place for the young etc. But it seems that all the village want is the so called "youthclub"
… I was on the committee that worked very hard to get the present building on the recreation field surely it would be sensible to expand this facility as all main services are already there
… On the face of it, it may sound like a good plan to extend present building, but if you look at the plans, the new design, which looks great, would take a very big chunk of lovely green space. I really think we need that green there. The main services will, of course, be present on Manor Farm. I think having all the new houses and new building including surgery together in one place males sense.
… What Surgery? There are no plans submitted or being submitted for a long time for that
…There's a lovely field on Manor Farm that I think we need for agricultural purposes and peace and quiet than a monstrosity of a money eating building! Land should be sold or reused in the village in a central location for the much needed village centre. The recreation grounds need to be close or next to it too.
… I'm no longer resident in my home village of Stretham, however I'm following this post with interest, and I have to say disbelief at some of the things I'm reading! … I am absolutely certain that … knows more about Stretham then you ever will. I believe that applies to myself also, as in all my years of living in Stretham I cannot think of any "land in a central location" for the much needed Village Centre. If you believe otherwise, do kindly update us all as clearly I have missed something?
… I would welcome responses from the Councillors themselves, ideally, but they seem not to want to take the time to answer residents questions here. Shame. I posted a simple series of questions, that is all, and wow, the response has been huge, not in support of the PC I might add.
In answer to your question, as I'm an outsider, I don't actually know of any land in a central location for the proposed village centre, because the PC haven't shared the identified sites that were considered by THEM, without consulting the residents, for which the village centre is for?
… Perhaps, instead of posting on the Strethambay group, … you should have listed your concerns and attended a Parish Council meeting in person, along with others with similar concerns. There is always a 'public participation' slot in every PC meeting. I have served two terms as a Parish Councillor over many years and am certain that having sat through countless hours of village discussions, there would be as much time as is necessary dedicated to listening to and hopefully answering residents concerns. Social media is not really the way to go unless, as you have accused others of, you are posting to 'provoke a reaction'. Councillors are governed by certain rules and getting into heated debates on social media would be frowned upon. Trying to 'name & shame' is also, in my opinion rather tardy, not to mention bordering on the wrong side of 'legal'.
… I have tried and I have attended and I have participated at PC meetings on and off when I can, and I have emailed, to no avail. … Unfortunately some of my concerns have been ignored or dismissed by the SPC. I created this post to ask what other residents thoughts were on the matter of the Village Centre, and no, I didn't quite expect the responses that have posted here, there is clearly, extremely strong feeling amongst the residents in regard to it and other matters.

… Here is a suggestion: Why not make the present Recreation Building a Doctors Surgery.
… Very disappointed. My understanding was that the community would be involved, however by the time we learned of this decision it was already a fait accompli. It seems that our input is irrelevant.
… that's such a shame. Also does Stretham really need it? I like Stretham the way it is even though they added Petersfield I think k that should be enough
… I absolutely do think we need new facilties. The current Parish Rooms are no longer fit for purpose. We are a growing village and have the opportunity to have a great new building . I believe that collaboration with the community it serves at every stage is so important.
… It should be on the playing field to replace the disgraceful building which is not fit for purpose in the centre of the village
… Interesting comments, keep them coming. I feel the Parish Council need to know what everyone thinks, given they refuse to consult the whole village on something so important that affects so much!
… Not sure, they're submitting planning for it. Don't know much as they haven't shared enough information
… It's stupid to think a panel of 'villagers' have sat together and agreed to spend 1.5 million on a hall for the village but won't put a pitch for there football team there. So they can use what they have paid for unlike now
… A new village centre sounds great, but should be on the Rec!
… Believe they have consulted the children at youth club and the school, nobody else.
… I Don't think they had a survey done round about this
… I asked a few questions via email last month for the council meeting but didn't get any response.
… same here.
… Well that's not a great way to run the local council
… it seems like some are just above asking for opinions and do whatever they want … they don't respect the constituents they serve
… Think it's a poor choice of location. I think redevelopment of the current rec and building is a better choice.

2021 10 18
Ely Standard > News > Local Council
Motion calls for community housing review in four villages
Author John Elworthy
Photo: Stretham CLT housing minister visit 2018
Mayor James Palmer at Manor Farm, Stretham CLT in 2018 with then housing minister Kit Malthouse in 2018. He was accompanied by CLT chair Charles Roberts and the mayor's then political aide Tom Hunt, now MP for Ipswich. - Credit: Kit Malthouse

Opposition councillors believe that many East Cambridgeshire residents have lost confidence in Community Land Trusts (CLTs) - a lynchpin of the Conservative led council's housing policy. Cllr Simon Harries has proposed a motion, seconded by opposition Lib Dem leader Lorna Dupre, to be debated at Thursday's full meeting of the district council. The motion upholds the principles of CLTs but says four schemes – at Wilburton, Stretham Kennett and most recently Little Thetford - have attracted growing criticism. Cllr Harries says that some decisions taken by CLTs are "widely seen as not appropriate in scale or location for the communities in question", He questions whether parish councils are being unduly influenced by CLT trustees.
Chief executive John Hill will tell the council he has been obliged to take urgent action to temporarily appoint parish councillors at Little Thetford. This was necessary, he says, after five parish councillors resigned, leaving the council with only two remaining members inquorate. He said by appointing three temporary replacements – Bill Hunt, Charlotte Michell and Alison Kilby - the parish council could continue to function particularly in relation to payment of contractors until vacancies are filled
Cllr Harries wants East Cambs Council to carry out a review of the four CLTs. "This review should have a specific focus on the relationship between ECDC and the CLTs," he says. This would ensure

that “the involvement of CLTs as an integral part of council housing policy is seen as rational, safe and unambiguous, with an effective code of conduct in place”. He also wants public meetings in the four villages.
In the meantime, he wants the council to promise to freeze all CLT project related financial commitments. Cllr Hunt, one of the temporary parish councillors, said it remained essential to support local people into affordable housing. “We want to assist local people living and working as close family units in family focused communities.”

2021 10 21
COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS INQUIRY
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTICE OF MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL will be held at LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE, CAMEL ROAD, LITTLEPORT CB6 1EW, ON THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021
AGENDA
8. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10 [oral]
Community Land Trusts
This Council recognises the important role of Community Land Trusts across the world in holding land on behalf of a place-based community, while serving as a long-term steward for affordable housing and other community assets. This Council supports the principle that development should take place in partnership with local communities, and with their support.
This Council notes that the administration has made working in alliance with CLTs across the District, and setting up its own District-wide CLT, its preferred way of meeting the need for affordable housing in East Cambridgeshire.
The Council notes however that trust in CLTs among members of the general public has been damaged as a result of concerns expressed by residents in Wilburton, Stretham, Kennett andmost recently Little Thetford, related to:
• Some decisions and actions taken by CLTs in their villages, in particular concerning developments widely seen as not appropriate in scale or location for the communities in question;
• Worries that parish councils are being unduly influenced by CLT trustees, shown by the vote of no confidence in Wilburton and resignation en masse of councillors in Little Thetford;
• Further concerns about profits gained by landowners as result of choices made by CLTs.
The Council acknowledges its own responsibilities as a result of its public support to all these CLTs and believes that it is necessary to review the issues that have arisen in the four villages noted above. This review should have a specific focus on the relationship between ECDC and the CLTs in this district, to ensure that the involvement of CLTs as an integral part of council housing policy is seen as rational, safe and unambiguous, with an effective code of conduct in place. The following process for the review is proposed:
a. Desk research, to review all relevant documents, to be provided by the CLTs in question.
b. Written submissions, to be invited from residents in relevant villages and from landowners associated with the developments now being proposed.
c. Interviews, to include a minimum of three trustees (or former trustees if none are in post now) from each CLT.
d. Public meetings in each of the four villages, in which residents will be invited to provide feedback, evidence and views.
The review should be carried out by a politically proportional working group set up by the Finance & Assets Committee at their next meeting. This activity should be completed within three months of commencement and will report initially to the Finance & Assets Committee, and to Full Council directly afterwards.
In the meantime, no further CLT project-related financial commitments should be incurred by the Council or its companies until after the report, as defined in this motion, has been considered by Full Council.
Proposer: Councillor Simon Harries Seconder: Councillor Lorna Dupre

2021 11 02 Stretham Parish Council Minutes, selection

19/464 Public Participation
The Clerk asked members of the public if anyone was recording the meeting. One resident was recording the meeting.
It was put to the Council, does the Council own the land that is being put forward for the location of the new Community Centre and has the short fall in funding been found. Councillor Nuttall, explained that the land was currently being discussed and that funding options were still being looked at.

19/467 To receive an update on the LHI Bid
The Council received an update on their application from the Local Highways Improvement Scheme. The design for the traffic slowing measures have now been completed, however they are still waiting for traffic and speed survey data before sending this through for approval. The survey boxes that are used are currently in high demand around the county so this will take place in a couple of weeks' time. Milestones still to complete are, Road Safety Audit and a formal order for the 40mph buffer zone. Therefore, the project will not be delivered until at least March 2022.

19/468 To discuss the co-option of two new Councillors
East Cambs District Council have given the go ahead for two Councillors to be co-opted. The Clerk to put out a notice in the Newsletter and to put a notice in the Parish Council notice board, with a Closing date of the 31st December 2021.

19/472 To receive an update on the Village Centre
Progress being made, a leaflet has been sent out to all residents to inform them of the consultation on Tuesday 30th November 4pm – 8pm at the Parish Rooms.
19/473 To consider planning applications
21/01576/FUL – 16 The Crofters, Strethaqm – No objections made.
21/01553/FUL – 23 Short Road, Stretham – No objections made.
19/474 To receive planning application decisions
21/00860/FUL – The Light House, 13 Chapel Street, Stretham – Approved
21/00920/FUL – Flexton House, 93 Station Road, Wilburton – Approved.
19/475 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
No update given.

19/476 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Speed and seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement.
[The accounts were not recorded in the minutes]

19/477 To receive Correspondence
An email received regarding purchasing from the small paddock the Council owns at Little Thetford, to be on the next agenda.
An email received regarding Newmarket Road and the recent accident. The Clerk to speak with Highways to gain some feedback on measures to cut the speed.

19/478 To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees
None
The meeting closed at 7.59pm

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at the Parish Rooms, High Street Stretham.
[This is incorrect – the meeting will be December]

2021 11 21 Email
Kim
I am in process of updating my file Stretham from 2000 and have a number of enquiries please.
Minute 19.233
What was the nature of the Legal Fees for which the Council paid £83,572.10 to Ashton Legal and £10,543.13 to 'C.Roberts'
Minute 19/228, 19/229 were not included on the online version of the approved meeting. What was the nature of those minutes
thank you. Mike

2021 11 21
clerk@strethampc.org.uk

Kim
I am in process of updating my file Stretham from 2000 and have a number of enquiries please
Minute 19.233
What was the nature of the Legal Fees for which the Council paid £83,572.10 to Ashton Legal and £10,543.13 to 'C.Roberts'
Minute 19/228, 19/229 were not included on the online version of the approved meeting. What was the nature of those minutes?
I have also updated the Stretham Chronicle and Scrapbook from 1770 to include some of the Parish Council Minutes from 1978 to 2000. As you will see there are a number of gaps and in due course I would appreciate your assistance in filling these. I will come back to you on this.
I attach both files in the hope you may find them useful.
thank you.

2021 10 25
HI Mike,

Here are the answers to your questions.
£10,543.13 was re-imbursement to C. Roberts who paid the deposit at the auction for the land recently purchased.
£83,572.10 was the balance of the purchase which included £1,279.60 legal fees to Ashtons (Solicitors)
Minute 19/229 - It was not included in the full Council minutes as the meeting closed at this point, as this was a confidential item.
I hope that helps, please do get in touch if you need anything further.
Kind regards
Kim

2021 12 01Bypass Field

In August 2020 Stretham Parish Council paid £94,115.23 at Auction for land adjacent to the Bypass.
The Auctioneer’s brochure stated that should development take place the vendor would receive additional payment. Should the major Road Scheme proceed as anticipated access will become far less dangerous for whatever purpose it is subsequently used.
At the time there were proposals for the dualling of the A10, one option of which would have seen a new road to the west of the village, potentially allowing development of the site.
Comments on the Auctioneer’s website indicates that the land sold for far more than the estimate of £60,000

There were no Stretham Parish Council meetings for March, April, May or June 2020 due to Covid.
The Minutes for 7th July 2020 contain no mention of the purchase of land by auction.

The Agenda for the meeting on 1st August was published on the Parish Council notice board.
The Minutes of the meeting were published on the Parish Council Website once approved as a true record. There seems to have been one item added and two items omitted.
Minute 19.227:
During the meeting the Council Councillor Parish (Chair) informed members of the public that the meeting would now close and the next two items would be discussed confidentially. Councillor Parish asked if members were happy for this to happen, it was proposed by Councillor Wright, Seconded by Councillor Nuttall, with the whole Council in agreement to close the meeting to the public. This was minute 19.227
Minutes 19,228 and 19.229 are not recorded. They are not 'redacted'.. They are simply omitted
The Agenda indicates these were
19.228 To consider the position of land owned by the Parish Council.
19.229 Update on lot 1 Ely Road.
When asked, the Clerk replied that these items were discussed confidentially.

Some indication of what they may have included may be gleaned from a report on the Parish Council Website dated 10th August 2020: "We have just purchased a field … on the west side of the A10 Cambridge Road, 250m north of Stretham roundabout"
I do not know whether the missing Minutes report that Council granted retrospective approval for the purchase of the land. I have asked for more details.

Subsequently the Council debated finance
Minute 19/233 Finance – to authorise payments … there were 14 items listed.
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Wright, with the whole Council in agreement. [There is no mention of any declaration of interest or abstention from voting].
Those present were: Councillor Parish (Chair), Councillor Roberts (Vice Chair), Councillors Murfitt, Nuttall, Wright, Taylor & Clark.
Two of the payments are minuted as
C Roberts Legal fees in relation to Parish Council business £10,543.13
Ashton Legal - Legal fees £83.572.10
When asked the nature of these payments the Clerk replied, 25th November 2021
£10,543.13 was re-imbursement to C. Roberts who paid the deposit at the auction for the land recently purchased.
£83,572.10 was the balance of the purchase which included £1,279.60 legal fees to Ashtons (Solicitors)
It would appear that the Council authorised payment of £94,115.23 for land that had been estimated at £60,000

2021 12 07 PC
Stretham Parish Council Tuesday 7th December 2021: selection
19/483 To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd November 2021 are an accurate record
The Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th October 2021 are an accurate record. This is Proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.
[However the minutes were inaccurate in stating the date of the next meeting]

19/484 To receive an update from County and District Councillors
Views wanted on 20mph limit from Manor farm to A10/A1123?

19/485 Public Participation
A resident who came to the Village Centre consultation asked; Why has there been no Village Consultation on location, no feasibility study or business plan done. How Will the building pay for

itself? And when football is on the recreation ground, why would they then go to Manor Farm to use the Social Club? SSRC failed why should this work? Councillor Nuttall provided a response, Consultations were done in 2016 and 2018. Fesibility study and business plan were done, but there were no funds to carry the project on. Now a grant has been obtained to start the project.

Light Up Stretham group were in attendance – All lights up and working with positive feedback received. £965 sponsorship raised by group. From the money the Council provided there is a surplus left, the group asked how much this was and could the group have this money. Also, would the SPC supply a similar standard of tree each year.

19/487 To receive an update regarding ditches and Flooding
The Culvert coming from the footpath behind the church and the bus shelter on Newmarket Road, is blocked and a dam effect is happening. There is also a Willow tree causing an issue. ECDC to remove tree and clean out culvert. If this does not help may look at moving the ditch and making a new culvert.
A10 opposite last bungalow towards Cambridge (Award Drain 4) has now been cut back and is going to be slubbed out. East side of Wakefield Way to be reprofiled to drain, then gets pumped out into the river. The Ditch behind Short Road is not the responsibility of ECDC or the Parish Council and is owned by the residents who back onto it and the landowner the other side.
19/488 Pariah Council representative for Charity Trustee
Councillor Roberts read out the following statement;
We are very fortunate to have the Charity in Stretham. It was established when conditions in the village were very, very different when poverty existed and education wasn't the norm for all, it was a privilege. For the past three years or so that Charity has quietly gone about its business, supporting education and keeping up-to-date to reflect he changing needs of the village and its residents. But it's done its work in harmony with their various Parish Councils at the time, the church and other village organisations and indeed we've seen how the Parish Council has been tasked with nominating Trustees to carry on the work of that Charity.
Those Trustees all give their time for nothing because they want what's best for our village, they want to give something back and they believe in our community. They are people of good standing, of honesty, integrity and people who others look up to and trust and rely on. They are people who work together with the whole community to build a relationship of trust and to strengthen it for the benefit of everyone. Trustees are not people who seek to divide, to condemn others without foundation or call into question the charitable work of other organisations. I'm passionate about this village and I understand the need for everyone to pull together to strengthen and maintain what we have here, whether that's through this Parish Council, whether it's through our Community Land Trust or our Stretham Charity, or our Youth Centre, our School, our sports clubs or other organisations. When they all pull and work together good things happen.
And with what I say in mind I shan't be proposing Mr Yardy as a Trustee tonight, I shall not second him and shall not vote in favour either.
The Parish Councillors were asked if anyone else would like to nominate Mr Yardy as a Parish Council representative Trustee, no one answered.
The Chair said that the Council will look to appoint another trustee in the New Year.

19/489 To discuss the tree project and Eleanor's field
Locations are being sought to plant new trees around the Village. It was proposed that the strap line for this project be One Thousand and Twenty-Two trees in 2022 this was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Markham, with the whole Council in agreement. The group to put a suggested amount into the budget for this project.

19/490 To discuss correspondence from last meeting
Councillors made no comments to the email received. [What email]
The request to buy the paddock at Red Fen Road was also discussed, Councillors agreed not to sell.

19/491 To receive an update on the Village Centre

Engagement session has taken place, 139 people visited and 89 feedback forms were received. These are now being collated and the next stage will be to take the feedback on board, from the comments there may be some changes need to be made. The next stage will be to look at a pre-planning application. Councillor Clark thanked Councillor Nuttall for all of his hard work on this project.

19/492 To consider planning applications
21/01550/FUL - 75 High Street Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3LD – No objections made
PREAPP/00172/21 - 7 Berry Close Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3JP – No objections made.

19/493 To receive planning application decisions
21/01485/TRE - The Haven 4 High Street Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire - Approved

19/494 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Transfer of land from SWCLT to SPC is currently with the Legal team. 50 dead trees have now been replaced on site.

19/495 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement.
[There were no details of payments given in the Minutes]

19/496 To receive Correspondence
None

19/497 To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees
Recreation Ground Sub Committee – Meeting after Christmas. The Pavilion is now being used by the Scouts, they currently have 12 Cubs, 5Beavers and numbers are going up.

19/498 Items for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting
20 MPH reduction on Newmarket Road
New Councillor applications
Cemetery Extension
The meeting closed at 8.28pm
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at the Parish Rooms, High Street Stretham.

2021 12 06
Cross Community Centre
Hundreds of Stretham folk came together on Friday evening in a remarkable village event.
They were there to witness the switching on of the Christmas Lights, a display organised by a small group of residents and funded by the generosity of local groups and businesses. It was a magnificent community effort quite overshadowing anything previously undertaken and helping to banish memories of a donated second-hand tree from a previous year.
Two photographs capture the scene. One shows the illuminated tree in the churchyard, the other the crowds around the Cross, the community centre.
The Cross has been the centre of Stretham for some 800 years. Quite why it is there is uncertain. It is said to have been erected by Bishop Morton as the place from which he saw Ely Cathedral for the first time. Others say it was a market cross. Some that it was previously erected in the churchyard. Rev Stitt, writing in 1922, records that it was previous surrounded by a flight of steps that were removed to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee, although a painting shows the existing base was there long before.

Whatever its story, the Cross has been seen by everybody passing through Stretham. And probably everybody who has ever lived in the village has touched it at some time in their lives.
But the photos show more.
Behind the tree, almost hidden in the darkness, having surrendered its floodlights for the occasion, is St James' Church. This is the place where villagers have gathered in good times and bad even before the Cross was erected. It has been the place of wedding, baptism and burial services. It has been a place of sanctuary following an accidental fire that devastated the village in 1844 and again in a series of incendiary blazes a decade later when it became the repository for what few items of furniture had been salvaged from destroyed cottages.
Long before that, even before the existing church was constructed, it was the place where swords and spears were assembled in preparation for a revolt against the successor to William, 'the Conqueror'. After 1066 the Island of Ely, on which Stretham stands, became the centre of resistance against the imposition of an unpopular ruler. It was the place where 'Hereward the Wake' and his companions held out until the secret pathway through the surrounding marshes was betrayed by the monks of Ely who themselves had found their quiet way of life challenged by the arrival of so many refugees from other areas of the conquered country.
St James' is the last of four places of worship in Stretham. As well as Sunday services, burials, marriages and christenings it has been a meeting place for the young and old, with musical events and talks offering friendship and refreshment for all.
Seen from the churchyard, behind the Cross are two beacons of light.
The Post Office is the only survivor of a number of dedicated shops which have served Stretham over the centuries. Like others it has suffered times of difficulties and was closed for a period. It became the village's Post Office following the Great War after the postal business had transferred from Swan's shop on the corner of High Street and Top Street. During that conflict, Mrs Swan had three sons. One joined up. She begged to be allowed to keep the others at home to help run the business. No, said the Tribunal, you can't keep them both. You can decide which one goes. One son's name is on the memorials in the churchyard and cemetery. Swan's continued as a General Stores until it finally closed in 1990.
The Red Lion is the last of a number of village pubs, once sharing the central area with the Chequers and the Royal Standard. For centuries it has been a welcoming meeting place offering hospitality, refreshment and companionship to many who might otherwise be alone. Like the Post Office it is an important asset that Stretham is lucky to have.
Church, shop and pub are our community's centre. They need to be preserved so that whatever the future might bring they can continue to serve Stretham's needs.
But it is the Stretham community that is the heart of the village.
What made the evening so special was that it brought together scores of villagers. Some who gathered had been residents all their lives, others had joined the village quite recently making significant financial commitments to help shape an expanding community. All mixed in a companionable, village way.
There were raised voices, but they were raised in singing Christmas songs, not in bitter squabbles over broken promises of a surgery or a proposed new 'Community Centre'.
The Cross is at the centre of our community and around that Cross the community gathered.
And that, to my mind, was the greatest achievement of a remarkable Stretham evening.

2021 12 07
Transcript of part of a recording of the Stretham Parish Council meeting 7th December 2021.
My thoughts on that … we are very fortunate to have the Charity in Stretham. It was established when conditions in the village were very, very different when poverty existed and education wasn't the norm for all, it was a privilege.
For the past three years or so that Charity has quietly gone about its business, supporting education and keeping up-to-date to reflect he changing needs of the village and its residents. But it's done its work in harmony with their various Parish Councils at the time, the church and other village organisations and indeed we've seen how the Parish Council has been tasked with nominating Trustees to carry on the work of that Charity.

Those Trustees all give their time for nothing because they want what's best for our village, they want to give something back and they believe in our community. They are people of good standing, of honesty, integrity and people who others look up to and trust and rely on. They are people who work together with the whole community to build a relationship of trust and to strengthen it for the benefit of everyone.
Trustees are not people who seek to divide, to condemn others without foundation or call into question the charitable work of other organisations
I'm passionate about this village and I understand the need for everyone to pull together to strengthen and maintain what we have here, whether that's through this Parish Council, whether it's through our Community Land Trust or our Stretham Charity, or our Youth Centre, our School, our sports clubs or other organisations. When they all pull and work together good things happen.
And with what I say in mind I shan't be proposing Mr Yardy as a Trustee tonight, I shall not second him and shall not vote in favour either. Just to lay that down.

2021 12 03
Hello Mike,
I hope you are well.
There seem to be a lot of people, particularly on social media, who have serious concerns about the proposed village centre. Issues range from the process followed, the lack of published feasibility studies, the site, the size, the cost of building and the suggested future running costs.
I haven't heard of anyone who says we don't need a new hall and a social club, but there are plenty who are not happy with the way things have been done, and the decisions that have been made.
Is there any way, in your opinion, that we can stop this being steamrollered through?

2021 12 11
You sent
It is good to hear from you; sorry for delay in responding.
As far as I can see, during last year's lock-down there were no Parish Council meetings. During this period 'the parish council' drew up and submitted a bid to the County Council for funding for a new Community Centre.
They made several statements about need and support, including a list of societies who would use the facilities. Several of these societies are unfamiliar to me.
They also promised the Parish Council would raise £1,000,000. As a result of this application, the County awarded £500,000 towards the scheme.
The Parish Council, once established were told 'they' had been successful in 'their' bid. This bid was supported by the County Councillor, since retired. It seems very similar to what happened with the 'Pavilion'. I was at the meeting when the District Councillor informed the Parish that he had been successful in obtaining the facility 'they had been wanting for years'. It was the first I had heard of it, and I was Chairman at that time. You may recall the bitterness that followed.
Plans had been drawn up to support the application, more plans are now being drawn up. I do not currently know who is the architect and who selected them and agreed their fees. I am aware that plans for 'Manor Farm' were drawn up at Orchard House.
So there are various issues. Another of these is that somebody made a survey and decided that the 'Community Centre' should be sited adjacent to the 'Doctor's Surgery' as part of the SWCLT scheme. The surgery was an essential part of the planning permission for Manor Farm. The SSRC told the Parish Council they did not have funds to process the planning application and the PC agreed to fund it.
Another essential of the Manor Farm scheme were industrial units. These have not been built. The new 'Community Centre' seems to occupy the space on which the - agreed - industrial units are supposed to be built. The new 'Parish' Council' Centre includes business units which may be in competition with those that must be provided by the SWCLT scheme.
It is far from transparent made even less clear by lack of information. There have recently been two meetings to discuss what should be included in the Community Centre. Neither of these meetings was advertised on the Parish Council notice board.

A recording of the last PC meeting includes an admission that the scheme might not go ahead, but that it would be necessary to draw up designs. Payment for such designs I believe to come out of the £500,000 from the County Council.
I am reminded that a few months ago there were plans drawn up to convert the pavilion into a nursery - again these would have had to be paid for.
There is feeling that a 'Community Centre' with a bar and Sky Sports will impact on the viability of the Red Lion.
There is also the issue of vehicular access. The Manor Farm plans envisaged that access to Plantation would be through the new estate, relieving pressure of large farm equipment along Brook Lane. This again has not happened and it is said there is opposition from the new residents. It also transpires that the access road has not met County standards and so may not be taken over. Yet this is intended to be the access for all traffic to the Community Centre which, to be at all viable must attract considerable use, in competition with other halls and venues. Many of these were not flourishing, even before Covid. Add to all this the inevitable noise associated with a large venue and one can see how there is so much concern about something that the village has not been given an opportunity to express an opinion.
I feel the proposers should prove that there is public support and that this should be done by a parish poll such as that organised at Wilburton over their CLT plans.
Oh, and you've met the first person who does not agree that we need a new hall and social club. There is space adjacent to the existing hall to allow expansion on to the open ground that is part of the former rectory and the disused Rectory Barn might easily be incorporated into the plans. One would then have a village centre in the village centre, not stuck on what is currently the edge of the village.
And of course there will be no further expansion on the other halves of the developed fields, will there? Hope some of this is of interest. Mike

2021 12 17
Reply to email from resident
I share your concern that an application seems to have been made to the County Council during lock-down when there were no meetings. In particular I am concerned that that application gave an undertaking that Stretham would raise £1M. I have raised this with the County Council in emails which are included in 'Stretham from 2000'.
It seems to me something that should be raised with our County Councillor, Bill Hunt having stood down.
At the last Parish Council meeting I believe Nuttall stated that the project might not go ahead, but that it was necessary to continue planning for it. I wonder, if the scheme is dropped, will the money spent on Architects etc be paid from the County, or from Stretham residents. It is made somewhat more difficult for, as you will have noted, the Parish Council no longer list in their Minutes, the payments they have made
Here are the emails – please make of them what you wish

2021 12 28 Cambs Times online
64 homes planned for Stretham
A Lincolnshire house building group – sold last month to a global investment firm – is behind proposals for 64 homes on a seven acre field at Stretham. A planning application to East Cambridgeshire District Council has been submitted by Larkfleet of Bourne through their partner firm Allison Homes. The company says 30 per cent of the homes will be affordable. Allison Homes says 70 responses were received to a public consultation from 1,365 leaflets sent out.

Of these 60 comments were concerned about access, parked cars on roads and the increase in traffic. Residents felt “roads around the site are congested and would be exacerbated by the proposed development”. “Most respondents also commented that the site would bring extra traffic past the primary school on Berry Close, making the road dangerous for school children,” says the company. One respondent identified that the extra traffic would exacerbate the problem of High Street being a rat-run.” Others suggested a revised access from the A10 or installing a roundabout whilst some

thought speed bumps or other speed reducing measures should be implemented near the school. "A lot of respondents commented that the access is not suitable as it is too narrow," says Allison Homes. "Many of the comments also mentioned that there are issues with parked cars on local roads such as High Street.
Allison Homes says a transport assessment demonstrates that the new estate would have "a negligible impact on both the operation of the highway network and highway safety. "The vehicular access arrangement to the proposed development is safe and suitable, being provided off Berry Close via the proposed site access arrangement."
Noting other measures, the company says it is "therefore concluded that there are no significant existing highway safety issues in any specific location".
Allison Homes says 27 people feared impact on local services. "Most respondents commented that the school was too small to accommodate more pupils," it says. Allison Homes says East Cambs has "consistently delivered poorly" with house completions and the numbers of affordable homes built has "remained low". It added: "Allison Homes welcomes the support for the scheme and agree that the development will bring benefits to the local community. "These include increased expenditure in the local area as well as a proportion of affordable housing."

2022 01 07
Stretham's Modest Contributor – Fenland Historian's log, 7th January 2022
When in October 2000 the Cambridge News visited Stretham as part of its 'Village and Community' feature they profiled half-a-dozen residents.
Amongst them was John Kisby who chose to speak not of himself, but of his role as a Trustee of the Stretham Charity which provides assistance for widows and helps meet educational needs. He did not mention the years he had been Chairman, nor of the hours he spent on the Charity's Allotments, not digging or weeding, but in ensuring that tenants could be sure each patch was properly marked out. But then, if the News had attempted to cover John's contributions to the village they would have needed a much larger supplement.
Measuring was also part of John's day-job, as Divisional Surveyor, ensuring that the roads and ditches were properly maintained, not just in this one village, but in all the others for which he had responsibility during a 38-year career from which he retired in 1987.
And when it came to planting new trees, John was at the forefront. He was one of the Parish Councillors who turned out on a bleak November morning in 1972 to give 60 ash and sycamores the best chance of survival along the Mill Drove and elsewhere.
Such dedication to the community helped ensure that Stretham was judged 'Best-Kept Village' in 1968 when John was photographed alongside other Parish Councillors at the presentation of the Award in what was to become the Jubilee Garden. John spent 21 years' as a Parish Councillor, many of them as its Chairman and when he chose to stand down the rest of us greatly missed his wisdom and guidance.
But it was St James' Church that occupied most of his energy, not just as a member of the congregation but as sidesman and Churchwarden, including a period when a Rector alienated not just members of the Parochial Church Council, but much of the village.
John was to be found clearing cow parsley in the churchyard and quietly repairing gravestones that had been damaged after the cutting had been undertaken by others. He would guide those researching their ancestors to family graves and help them explore their genealogy through the Parish Registers.
And when the church spire was covered in scaffolding in 1993 John took the opportunity of making personal acquaintance with the weathercock, inviting others, including myself, to join him for a unique view of the village of which he was so important a part.
He was for years the winder of the church clock, climbing the spiralling stone steps of the spire and demonstrating his fitness by turning the handle that raised the heavy weights that kept time moving and clearing the mess left by jackdaws that interfered with the mechanism.
Now the time has come when John and his wife, Betty, who herself has played an important part in the community, are leaving the village for a new home nearer family support in Hertfordshire.
They will be much missed, though never forgotten, for the name 'Kisby's Walk' has been given to a footway through a new Estate. Its present sorry state is a reminder of just how difficult John's work

of footpath maintenance was, but when eventually surfaced it will be a fine memorial to a man who gave so much time and effort to the village, so little of it recorded. Least of all by him.

Photos; John Kisby and councillors at Best Kept Village presentation in 1968, John presents Charity Cheque to School 1993, Clearing Jackdaw mess in church tower 1994, Damaged tombstone that John quietly repaired, News article 2000, John with the weathercock on the top of the spire 1993

2022 02 01 Parish Council meeting – Tape Recording
https://archive.org/details/stretham-pc-meeting-1-feb-2022-1
Contents
1.46
Councillors' bullying
6.28
Petition
9.33
Access to Manor Farm extension via Brook Lane or new road alongside estate during construction phase
15.39
Doctors' surgery, no progress with NHS
26.36
Bill Hunt involved in application for £500K by Council at end of 2020
58.51
Village Centre update, estimates more than £1.5M
101.31
Village Centre £900K shortfall, £640,000 loan would repay at £36,000 pa, revenue from precept. £45 per home extra on Council rate. 270 sign petition in opposition. Should be on Recreation Ground Proposal not carried. Council has debated this before, will not debate it for next six months

2022 01 07
Stretham Parish Council Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2022 at 7:00pm : selection
19/501 To receive declarations of interests and to consider requests for dispensations
Councillor Roberts in respect to Planning application 21/01740/FUL

19/503 Public Participation
Bullying: not minuted
Manor Farm Petition: not minuted

A resident came to ask, with the Village Centre what is going to be the access to the site, will it go through Plantation gate or up through Peters Field. As the Road at Manor Farm is currently not adopted, will traffic be allowed to come up through there?
Councillor Roberts explained that when all planning for Manor Farm went in, it was agreed that no traffic would go up through Plantation Gate and it would go through Manor Farm. The resident said maybe the Website needs to be changed as it looks misleading. The resident also noted that the Feasibility Study that was completed in 2018 is now out of date, and was planning permission going in before the feasibility study was done. Councillor Nuttall explained the process.

Residents from Akeman Close were in attendance to discuss the Planning application for the field behind Akeman Close. They informed Council that a covenant was in place on the field and is still in place, are ECDC going to revoke this? The last application that went in was refused and nothing has changed, residents were very concerned about this application.

A resident came to discuss issues with the Culvert on Newmarket Road.

A resident was in attendance to discuss a letter that had been sent to Councillor Roberts directly.

19/505 To receive an update regarding ditches and Flooding
Councillor Murfitt asked how much longer this was going to go on, and asked what the pipe is going across the ditch outside the bus shelter.
The Clerk to speak to Spencer Clark to get an update on when the Willow tree is going to be cut down that is in the ditch behind Newmarket Road.
The Ditch behind the A10 and Cambridge Road has now been cut and due to be slubbed out by ECDC.

19/506 To discuss the proposed 20mph speed reduction on Newmarket Road
It was agreed that the Council would support this plan, this was proposed by Councillor Speed, seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/507 To receive new Councillor Applications
The Clerk read out the Four applications that had been received, all applicants were proposed and seconded by members of the Council so a blind vote took place. The Clerk and the RFO counted the votes and Joy Sennitt and Liz Sennitt – Clough were voted in as new Councillors with the majority of votes.

19/508 To discuss the cemetery extension
Councillor Roberts explained that there was fencing in the cemetery shed to mark out the extension. The Clerk to liaise with Laragh Homes to ask them to mark out in the field where the extension is to go and to start the legal proceedings of signing the land over to the Council.

19/510 To receive an update on the Village Centre
The summery report from surveys has been sent to the architects. Now need to discuss pre – planning application. Councillor Nuttall to circulate this to Councillors. Plans have been sent by the RFO to County and lawyers are being appointed to start the land transfer process.

19/511 To consider planning applications
21/01799/FUM – Land at Berry Close, Stretham – The Council objected to this application on the following grounds. Access to the site is very narrow, it is a Highways risk. The road leading up to the site requires all traffic to not only go through the Village, but also past the school where there is an S bend in the road, making it extremely narrow. The road leading up to the site is always very busy with moving and parked vehicles, and this will in turn cause major congestion and be a risk to the children walking to and from school.
The land in which the site is to be built on is outside of the Village planning envelope.
The density of the development. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Speed.

21/01479/VAR – Pony Lodge, Grunty Fen Road, Witchford – The Council made no objections to this application, this was proposed by Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Markham, with the whole Council in agreement.
21/01706/FUL – 15 Newmarket Road, Stretham – The Council made no objections to this application in principle, however there must be room for cars to drive into the driveway forward and come out forwards due to the busy road. – This was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement.
21/01740/FUL – 42 Feast Green – The Council made no objections to this application – This was proposed by Councillor Clark, Seconded by Councillor Markham, with other Councillors in agreement***. Councillor Roberts abstained from voting.***

19/512 To receive planning application decisions
None

19/513 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
No update

19/514 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2022

	Income		Expenditure		
SYC	2021	Boiler Re-Payment		Salaries	2382.43
Pavilion Hire	225	Hire	L. Shearing	752	News Letter
Lloyds	1.02	Interest	Petersfield	61.2	Legal Advice
			ECDC	73	Rates
			BG	62	Power
			EoN	39.44	Power
	2247.02		3370.07		

Balance at the Bank

Current Account	15855.22
Instant Account	20005.26
32 Day Account	97347.49
VC Account	105011.81
Total	238219.78

It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement***. [The cheques were not minuted]***

19/515 To receive Correspondence
Two letters were read out by the Clerk, these were letters of complaint regarding the proposed Village Centre.
[The council's response was not minuted]

19/517 Items for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting
Councillor Speed would like to know how many responses have been received in regards to the planning application 21/01799/FUM – Land at Berry Close, Stretham

The meeting closed at 8.42pm
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st Febuary 2022 at the Parish Rooms, High Street Stretham.

2022 02 01
Stretham Parish Council Minutes Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7:00pm - selection
19/520 To receive declarations of interests and to consider requests for dispensations
Cuncillor Markham – In regards to the Scot email. ***[What was this?]***

19/522 Public Participation
A resident came and gave a statement on his thoughts of the Council.
[This was not reported]
A member of the public presented a petition from residents in the Village. This was in regards to the siting of the Village Centre. The petition was not given to the Clerk.
A resident asked if there was an update on the doctors surgery. Councillor Roberts gave an update.
[This was not reported]
A resident asked about the proposed access for the Village Centre. Councillor Roberts gave an update on the SWCLT plans [***This was not reported]***

19/523 An Update from Councillor Bill Hunt

Councillor Bill Hunt came to give an over view on what is happening in the district, here are some of the key points;
I am currently pushing for a 20mph area Green End/A1123 area.
I support a new A10 (Dual) linking Milton/A14 to A142/A10 BP Roundabout. I support this fir many reasons including better for cycles and residents of Cambridge Road Stretham.

19/525 To receive an update regarding ditches and Flooding
Councillor Roberts updated the Council, award drain 4 to be slubbed out by contractors.

19/526 To discuss the Platinum Jubilee
575 trees were donated to the Parish Council, Councillor Roberts proposed 4 sites to put them, this was seconded by Councillor Clark, with the whole Council in agreement.

Councillor Parish proposed that the Feast Committee would like to put on a Proms in the park for the Village, this would require £300 for the band. This was seconded by Councillor Sennitt, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/527 To receive an update on the LHI bid
Councillor parish talked through the proposed plans, the Clerk to send the plans round to Councillors. ***[This was not reported]***.

19/528 To receive an update on the Village Centre
The report from the Consultations is currently being complied, actions from the meeting are being completed.
Councillor Taylor proposed the following;
So just to be quite clear.
The project needs to start building by Dec 2022 or we will lose the Grant of £500,000 and payback what we have already received.
The land agreement, lease has still not been presented to the PC, a meeting is going to be arrange with solicitors so this can be discussed and drawn up, currently we don't have a date for this meeting.
ECDC will not release the next milestone payment of £100,000 until they see an agreed, signed lease/contract to buy/rent the land.
Currently all we have is a verbal indication and a head of terms but no mention of how much this is going to cost. If this is a purchase of the land, or a lease. Part of the land is owned by Peterhouse which is going to make this more complex, Charles reported that Laurah ***[name consistently misspelt]*** homes has spoken to Peterhouse college and this isn't going to be a problem. However, we still have nothing in writing.
We are running out of time and I know how long these things take especially when dealing with colleges, and solicitors. And I am very concerned.
The project is looking like coming in at cost of £1,500,000, to get a more accurate cost we need to spend out a further £750.00 on quantity surveyors to provide figures using the plans we have but looking at the current raise of building materials I can't see it coming in much below the 1.5 mill already indicated by the architect.
We have £500,000 grant, £100,000 parish rooms sale, leaving a 900,000 short fall. We can apply for grants for the short fall but £900,000 is a lot. The original proposal suggested a Public Works loan for £640,000 which the council could borrow.
Alan reported at the Project meeting that the repayment of a £640,000 load would be in the region of £36,000 per year – this must be paid out of revenue not capital – so we can't sell something to pay it we need to generate the money.
I am concerned that due to the business module the ability to get grants will be difficult as the contract for the complete build is going to be awarded to Laugh homes so not go out to tender, Alan

reported to the project group that this is possible as laugh homes are already building on this site they would be able to bring this project to conclusion cheaper that any other builder.
As most grants would require three quotations, I think this is going to be difficult to obtain comparative quotations, especially as it has already been made public that the contract will be awarded to Laurah homes – Alan is looking into this but I feel this is going to be a barrier for further funding.
I am concerned that the facility will just not generate enough income to pay for the borrowing needed, leaving the council with a shortfall, if the £640,000 loan was required and the revenue wasn't available then this would equate to a cost of £45.00 per house which would be obtained by increasing the council tax.
And the most important point – and my Major concern is that a large proportion of the The Village don't want this development built on that location and of that size. This is quite clear by the amount of negatives comments on the consultation, social media and people writing in to the council, a petition with over 200 members of our village and also residents who actually live next to the Recreation Ground, who are asking us not to build it on Manor Farm but to Build it on the recreation ground in front of their houses !!
What is going to happen if the council continue down the road to planning – I am just dreading the amount of opposition to the planning application we are going to receive. This will no doubt hold up the proceedings even further costing time, money and putting the project at risk.. That is if we can actually get the land purchase agreed, which is looking more doubtful with every month that slips by.
As part of my duties on the user group I have looked at other villages and the facilities they offer. I have looked through the internet and plans of other facilities that have been built over the last few years, the design location, costs and going forward the viability. I have driven out and looked at couple of these.
Wereham village was one that really stood out for me as being very close to what the consultations have shown us the village want to have built in a new facility, so I feel it's a close guide obviously there are some things missing and some things that would be needed to be changed but I think it's a good starting point.
In brief a Good size hall, plenty of room for a stage, nice large windows doors over looking the rec, community café other meeting rooms. I have printed out the case study for you all to look at
The build cost was £884,000 .
This would work perfectly on our Recreation ground, we could get this up and running very quickly, as we already own the land and can get the process started so we can still meet the deadline for the grant.
You can see in the information the grants and fund raising the village obtained over 6 years to build this facility for the community.
The shortfall of £284,000 on our build could be achieved by grants and the football foundation have funds available for building new pavillion/changing rooms so we could look into this as a possibility, this along with other grants already identified we could have a very nice facility without having to go for a large public works loan.
As we wouldn't be tied to Laurgh homes, we can ask local builders to quote to build this, village builders who use village labour. We have a wealth of skills in this village and yet to my knowledge and yes please prove me wrong, but not one local tradesman was used by laurah homes builders when building the houses on the new Manor Farm Estate.
The Management User group would gain more members, with the football club, scouts and cubs, the bowls club might be keen to join as the facility will be next door to the currently outside bowling green so will be very coinvent for them to use for indoor carpet bowls.
We can extend the sporting facilities, try and attract tennis back to the village, maybe have cricket net, golf net, a petanque pitch, the ideas are endless and all creating more revenue for the social club and room hire. Just think how much cash would go over the bar when a football match it on, just take a wander on a Saturday when stretham play at home – see how many people are out watching – with the added facilities, café/club open how many more people would go down.
The village would only have to maintain one facility this would reduce costs to the village, we would have the same amount of play parks by upgrading the one already on the recreation ground,

we could make it a top notch state of the art playground, this would attract families,.. (take a drive out to Islehams, parents travel from Stretham to Isleham so that the kids can play on the play park) We want them to come to Stretham to use our play park, to drink in our café, hire our hall, drink in our club.
Shouldn't we just leave manor farm for the building of houses – affordable houses for our village. The scheme is a great success housing many Stretham and local people who would normally been forced to move out to cheaper areas. The more houses we can build on the manor farm estate gives us more weight when we try and stop other developments as we are reaching our new home target. As clerk to the Stretham Charity there are not many months when I don't get asked about providing rental houses, there is a huge demand. Why are we using up valuable building land when we have land on the Recreation Ground just crying out for a nice new pavillion building and some love and attention, which has been lacking over the past few years.
The reason I am so passionate about this is not for myself but for our Children and Grandchildren that they don't have a white elephant but a building that will continue to serve the community over the years to come.
I really feel that the council needs to STOP and rethink the current project.
I propose that we instruct an architect to draw up some plans to build a new facility on the recreation ground, demolish the old pavillion and use the Wareham model as a guide then set up a consultation with the village.
This was seconded by Councillor Murfitt, with the rest of the Council voting as follows.
For
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Murfitt
Against
Councillor Parish
Councillor Markham
Councillor Roberts
Councillor Nuttall
Councillor Clark
Councillor Sennitt
Councillor Sennitt-Clough
At this point in the meeting a resident made comments on the Councils Decision and walked out of the meeting.

19/529 To consider planning applications
22/00037/FUL – Land West of Saunders Piece, Ely Road, Little Thetford. Change of use to a mix of Gypsy and Traveller residential use, with construction of three residential pitches for equestrian use, and three stable blocks. The Council objected to this application, this was proposed by Councillor Clark, Seconded by Councillor Markham, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/530 To receive planning application decisions
None

19/531 To receive an update on progress of SWCLT
Construction of the Hall Road for Phase 4 will start on the 14th February.

19/532 Finance - To authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income
It was proposed that all cheques to be paid. This was proposed by Councillor Clark and seconded by Councillor Sennitt - Clough, with the whole Council in agreement.
[The cheques were not minuted]

It was agreed that cemetery fees for residents would remain the same, but fees for non – residents would increase. This was proposed by Councillor Nuttall, Seconded by Councillor Parish, with the whole Council in agreement. Land tenancies have been reviewed and sent out to tenants.

19/533 To receive Correspondence
Two letters were read out by the Clerk, these were letters of complaint regarding the proposed Village Centre. ***[These were not summarised]***

19/534 To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees
Amenities Working Party Sub Committee – A new Boiler is required for the Parish Rooms, it was proposed by Councillor Taylor to go ahead and replace, this was seconded by Councillor Murfitt, with the whole Council in agreement.
Feast Sub – Committee – The Feast will go ahead this year; plans will be picked up where they were left. The Charity is going to be Blood Bikes. Councillor Taylor to organise the Dog show.

19/535 Items for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting
To discuss living Roofs on the bus shelters.

19/536 To receive Councillor Questions
Recreation ground seats still to be repaired

The meeting closed at 8.58pm
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at the Parish Rooms, High Street Stretham.

2022 02 10 ES online
Former Metro Mayor James Palmer and his former adviser Charles Roberts have re-united with a campaign to promote the Eastern region. They are being supported in the formation of Eastern Powerhouse by ResPublica, that describes itself as an "independent non-partisan think tank". Mr Palmer, defeated in last May's election, is chair of Eastern Powerhouse and Mr Roberts is described as head of development. ResPublica is hosting the launch of Eastern Powerhouse on March 15 at the Royal Horseguards Hotel, London. Among those lined up to speak is Mr Palmer, Matt Hancock, the MP for West Suffolk, and Matt Windle, managing director of Lotus Cars. The Eastern Powerhouse aims to do what has never been achieved in the East: to create a narrative for the whole region; a vision for the future prosperity of the people who live here. Mr Palmer says the Eastern Powerhouse is "not a public authority or a political organisation. "We are not set up to deliver funding or government policy. Our aim is to promote the Eastern Region by raising its profile". He said: "As a commonwealth of businesses and local councils, we will be supportive of sustainable business growth, and campaign for investment that shows return. "We will work across parties with MPs and members of the House of Lords to increase the influence of the East in parliament. "And we will aim to influence government policy. The East of England is home to innovators and entrepreneurs, great scientific and great business minds." Mr Palmer, like Mr Roberts a former

leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, added: “In agriculture, technology, and life science, as well as manufacturing and green energy, the East leads the way. “Governments have tended not to look East - voices elsewhere tend to be louder and with more political points to score. “Our aim is to redress the balance in favour of investment here. “Clearly it will take time to remedy the lack of attention over many decades, but it is important that we take our inspiration by looking at what has been successful elsewhere in the UK. There is no doubt the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands Engine have had a significant effect on government policy in their areas. “The West has created its Western Gateway, whilst Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland have devolved parliaments. “Until now, the East has looked on without a coherent voice and that simply has to change.” He said: The Eastern Powerhouse is business-led, it is democratic, and it will exert considerable influence in Westminster. ES

2022 02 22
Automatic half barrier crossings at Waterbeach, Dullingham and Six Mile Bottom are to be upgraded to manually controlled barriers. And six signal boxes at Chippenham, Dullingham and Bury St Edmunds are to be decommissioned. Network Rail will also upgrade to manual barriers the crossings at Croxton, Dimmocks Cote (Stretham) and Milton Fen. ES

2022 03 01
Stretham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 1st March 2022

The clerk was taken ill this morning, so the deputy clerk (Alan Melton) took the notes for the meeting. It was decided to deal with essential matters only.

19/538: To receive declarations of pecuniary or non- pecuniary interests.
Janet Parish declared an interest under finanace.

19/539: To receive and resolve the minutes of the Parish Meeting 1st February 2022.
Members received and approved the minutes of the meeting, subject to the addition of Councillors Sennit and Sennit-Clough, who were in attendance.

19/540: Public Participation: A resident questioned the use of threats at persons who criticise the council on social media sites, quoting the Human Rights Act. The Deputy Clerk accepted all the points made by the resident; however, the officers would not accept libellous and threatening posts and would take appropriate action, the council have screen shots of posts that are libellous.
[Council accept threats by councillors]

A representative of the bowls club asked about the nets for the Bowls Club to stop footballs coming over the hedge, he stated that the bowls club were prepared to pay towards the nets. Councillor Taylor would obtain a quote for discussion at the next meeting.

A resident raised the question of previous complaints, the Deputy Clerk said that the complaints were being taken seriously and as long as the complaints are in writing, they would be investigated.
[What action was taken]

19/543: Tenders for new boiler in the Parish Rooms
Members gave authority to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to authorise the installation of a new boiler up to £5,000, subject to tender.

19/544: Platinum Jubilee.
The Deputy Clerk presented the commemoration coins that had been purchased.

19/545: Living Roofs.

Councillor Taylor said that she would investigate “Living Roofs”.

19/546: Planning Applications:

22/00180/OUM Land at Cambridge Road, Stretham. Object: Outside of the development boundary. Over development. Dangerous access and exit onto Cambridge Road.
22/00037/FUL Land West of Saunders Piece, Ely Road, Little Thetford. Object: The proposal is outside the development boundary. The site is unsuitable do contamination by radon gas. Unsustainable, no amenities or footpaths.
21/01799/FUM Land at Berry Close, Stretham. Object: Outside the development area. Access to the site is narrow and unsustainable. Access is via a narrow s bend close to the school, affecting access to the school. Major congestion risk.
22/00150/FUL 23, Feast Green Stretham. No Objection.

19/547: Progress of the SWCLT.
Councillor Roberts reported that the commencement of phase 4 would start shortly.

19/548: To receive the Financial Report and authorise the RFO to pay the accounts.
Proposed by Councillor Nuttall and Seconded by Councillor Clark that the accounts be paid, agreed unanimously Janet Parish did not vote.

STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL REPORT - MARCH 2022

	Income			Expenditure		
Pepper	70	Burial	Salaries	2490.95		
Hire	240	Parish Rooms		BU Coin	798	Jubilee
Lloyds	1.02	Interest	GreenTech		553.8	Tree Guards
			BG	146.39	Power	
			AWA	14.08	Water	
			J. Parish		196.86	Feast/Jubilee
			L. Shearing		752	Newsletter
			ECDC	20	Lottery	License
			G. Carey		216	Straw Bales
			Max Films		125	Film Conversion ***[Silver Jubilee film]***
			ECDC	19	Rates	
			Mynott	900	QS/SVC	
	311.02			6232.08		

19/549: Items from sub-committees and members:
It was reported that people were leaving the footpath at Burying Way and encroaching onto agricultural land. It was agreed to ask CCC for signs at each end of the route.

Councillor Murfitt once again asked about the hole in the Parish Room roof***. [No action for several months past]***
19/550: The next meeting would be on Tuesday 5th April at 7pm in the Parish Rooms.
The meeting ended at 7.44pm

2022 04 05
Stretham Parish Council Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 5th April 2022: selection

Present: Councillors: Councillor Parish (Chairman), Councillor Roberts (Vice Chairman), Councillor Taylor, Councillor Nuttall, Councillor Clark, Councillor Markham, Councillor Sennitt, Councillor Sennit-Clough

19/551: To receive apologies: Councillor Wright, Councillor Murfitt, Councillor Speed, Councillor Markham, Councillor Clark

19/554: Public Participation:
Residents were in attendance to discuss the proposed Village centre and the affect this will have on the precept and Council tax.
A resident asked if the Kisby way walk was going to be evened out, the Clerk to refer this to SWCLT.
Residents asked the Council why and if they still supported the SWCLT project.
[No replies minuted]

19/556: To discuss Cycle racks in the Village
Cambridgeshire County Council have offered to put cycle racks in the Village, locations were proposed to the Council. The Council agreed to have them.

19/558: Platinum Jubilee.
Coins have now arrived and working with the school to distribute.

Hedges planted, looking at new sites ready for the Autumn for planting to continue. The Clerk to speak to the Charity Trustees to discuss a potential community orchard. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Sennitt – Clough for the Clerk to write to the charity. Laragh Homes to sort damage to the newly planted hedge and will make a contribution to the tree project.

19/559: Councillor intimidation
This is not acceptable and a file has been collated. Councillor Parish proposed this be sent to the Police, this was seconded by Councillor Roberts, with the whole Council in agreement. ***[What response to Councillor bullying of Yardy]***

19/560: Planning Applications:

21/01799/FUM	– Land at Berry Close, Stretham	The Council objected to this application, making no further comments on the update.
22/00341/FUM	Land At E550177 N277983 Pools Road Wilburton Cambridgeshire	The Council objected to this application
22/00215/FUL	Sopris 5 Old Orchard Lane Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire	No objections

Decisions

21/01740/FUL	42 Feast Green Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3GL	Approved
21/01330/VARM	Stowbridge Farm Green End Stretham CB6 3LF	Approved
21/01819/VARM	Manor Farm Development Plantation Gate Stretham Cambridgeshire	Approved
21/01674/FUL	Land East of 34 Meadow Croft, Stretham	Approved
22/00150/FUL	23 Feast Green, Stretham	Approved

19/561: Progress of the SWCLT.

Councillor Roberts reported that the commencement of phase 4 has started ***and the Hall Road is now in place.***

19/562: To receive the Financial Report and authorise the RFO to pay the accounts.
Proposed by Councillor Taylor and Seconded by Councillor Roberts that theaccounts be paid, agreed unanimously Janet Parish did not vote.

- STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL REPORT - APRIL 2022
- Income Expenditure
- Parish
- Rooms 260 Hire Salaries 2581.7
- 40 Electricity Meter R.H Landscapes 2280.12 Grounds
- Veal 1739.25 Land Rent Haysom Ward Miller 7409.4 Architect
- Cambridge Commercial 48.77 Electrical
- Laura Shearing 752 News Letter
- ECDC 75.23 Rates
- ROSPA 194 Training
- J. Parish 294.91 Feast
- ECDC 70 License
- 2039.25 13706.13
- Balance at the Bank
- Current Account 2337.1
- Instant Account 15007.75
- SVC Account 105014.4
- 32day Account 97355.44
- Total 219714.69

19/563: Items from sub-committees and members:
Village Centre costings have come in from QS, these are higher than expected, a review of the design will now take place. Asked a builder's QS to do a quote. Pre–planning meeting has taken place, they like the plans and made a few comments. Once updated costings have taken place another review of the plans will happen. The RFO has spoken to CCC and bi monthly meetings will now take place. ***[Was this reported in the Newsletter?]***

A meeting of the recreation ground committee has taken place, a user meeting will be held to discuss repairs etc. Repairs for playpark repairs are being sort.

Amenities sub – committee – currently waiting for the cemetery extension. Laragh Homes going to be asked if they can assist with seeding grass etc.

19/564: The next meeting would be on Tuesday 3rd May at 7pm in the Parish Rooms.

The meeting ended at 8.06pm

2022 04 25
Copy of letter: Request for an investigation of CLT practices and operations in East Cambridgeshire.
Sent To: Minister for Housing The Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP, Lucy Frazer MP; Mayor Nik Johnson; Cllr. Lucy Nethsingha.
We are writing to you as a group of community members from rural villages within East Cambridgeshire who are extremely concerned about the practices and operations of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) in our villages particularly, but also in the wider District. Whilst CLTs are set

up to be independent, the move to push CLT developments has been driven and promoted by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC), their trading arm (ECTC) and with major policy changes that facilitate a development model which is unique to East Cambridgeshire.
Our belief is that ECDC have sought to use CLTs as a profit driven development platform, with policies put in place enabling unrestricted development outside defined and publicly scrutinised planning envelope boundaries detailed in the Local Plan. Funded in part by money from the Combined Authority, plans have repeatedly been shown to be undemocratic, with opportunity for meaningful community leadership severely, or completely, curtailed. We now believe that there is an urgent need for an investigation into the behaviour and governance of CLTs in our region, involving the Auditors of both ECDC and DLUHC.
The practices of ECDC CLTs differ from those of the National CLT Network, and have resulted in the weakening of democratic accountability as CLTs are governed solely by the most basic regulatory oversight. A small and dwindling CLT membership cannot be deemed representative of the local community, who in turn have little input to key decision making.
Although claiming to bring forward “Community Led” plans, the reality is that plans are presented to the Community only after those key decisions have been made. Community opposition to such schemes (for instance querying even the most basic of parameters - size or location of a potential development) has been met with misleading or incomplete statements, from both the CLTs and ECDC; questioning who raise such queries, rather than making any meaningful attempt to address genuine Community concerns. In some cases, calls for village meetings have been ignored or refused. Such an approach has proved to be hugely divisive and damaging; fracturing well established and long-standing community cohesion in the small rural villages of Wilburton, Stretham, and Little Thetford.
At a recent ECDC Full Council meeting, the Leader of ECDC claimed that CLTs in our region are “highly regulated”, by both the Financial Conduct Authority and the Charities Commission. After the most basic fact-checking it was confirmed by the FCA that whilst CLTs are indeed registered, they are neither accountable to or regulated by the FCA themselves. This point was further confirmed by the National CLT Network who has stated that "the FCA doesn't regulate CLTs by way of proactively examining whether CLTs are running in accordance to their rules... CLTs have to file annual reports including accounts with the FCA, so they are checked for solvency, that's all". Neither are local CLTs to be found on the Charities Commission register, they are merely recorded as having 'charitable rules' under the Industrial and Provident Society Act 1965. This clouding of the regulatory standards implies that it may be the Council's desire for the CLT model to proceed without specific regulatory oversight.
The benefits accruing to ECDC in the pursuit of its CLT policies are manifold, including gaining planning permission on its own land, using its own trading company as the developer, selling advice locally and nationally, and from interest rates on loans made. In addition, and by adopting its CLT model, ECDC has been able to bring forward development sites that are not allocated in the Local Plan and would otherwise not gain planning approval. Naturally, this has the potential to bring in significant additional CIL payments (whilst on occasion, payments required to be made by regular commercial developers, e.g. education contributions, are bypassed by the CLT developer in spite of the obvious impact on local infrastructure). Finally, there are potential grounds for serious concern that the CLT model in East Cambridgeshire has created market distortion, inasmuch as favoured developers gain privileged access to development opportunities.
The 500-home flagship ECTC CLT development in the small village of Kennett has now been sold to Bellway Homes. Bellway's purchase has secured for them a large housing project in open countryside which under normal circumstances would never have been given planning permission. According to ECDC policy, development in this area of the District should contribute 40% affordable housing, not the 30% that Bellway is now required to provide. The Kennett location is completely at odds with the strategic Growth areas identified in the current 2015 Local Plan of Ely, Littleport and Soham. The Kennett plans attracted significant Community opposition yet were approved as being “community led” following a closed vote amongst a relatively small and certainly unrepresentative CLT membership. With ECDC and their trading arm being planners, planning adjudicators and financial beneficiaries it is no surprise that the Council's Community Led policies have been questioned by independent planning inspectors in both the 2015 and 2018 local

plans, the latter requesting modifications to the Plan for the complete removal of all mention of "community-led" development, including at Kennett.
We are writing to impress upon you that ECDC's use of CLTs and their policies has done material harm to our trust in the planning process and the local democratic process. Policies, procedures and practises that have eroded trust and have divided communities, families and friends and all in the name of 'Community Led Development'.
The majority party within ECDC has determined that it will not investigate the practices of CLTs in our region – nor will they listen to the clear concerns being expressed within the villages. We ask that you, Minister of Housing The Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP, Lucy Frazer MP, Nik Johnson Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Lucy Nethsingha Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council in co-operation with the auditors of ECDC and DLUHC, establish a full and proper investigation to determine how and why the entirely laudable ideals of Community Led Development and Community Land Trusts have resulted in such division and acrimony within our small rural communities in East Cambridgeshire, and what can be done to rapidly remedy the situation.
In the meantime we request that East Cambs DC is immediately designated for all major planning decisions under Section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the reasons outlined above, for recent planning appeal decisions, their failure to provide an up to date Local Plan, principal planning policies that have been shown to be out of date, and chronic under-delivery of affordable housing.
Sincerely,
Residents of Wilburton, Stretham and Little Thetford. East Cambridgeshire

2022 05 03 PC
Stretham Parish Council Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 3rd May 2022- selection

19/565: To elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman
The Stretham Parish Council meeting opened with the voting for Chair and Vice Chair of the Council. Councillor Parish was nominated for the position of Chair and was voted in by all Councillors as Chair of Stretham Parish Council. Councillor Roberts was nominated and voted in for Vice Chair of Stretham Parish Council.

19/569: Public Participation:
Residents were in attendance to discuss the planning application for the Lazy Otter, to discuss their objections.
19/571: To appoint members of Sub-Committees and Working Parties for the following year
Councillors decided to stay on the committees they are currently on.

19/573: Planning Applications:
22/00022/FUL - Lazy Otter Cambridge Road Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire – The Council objected to this application, this was proposed by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Taylor, with the whole Council in agreement.
21/01799/FUM - Land At Berry Close Stretham Cambridgeshire CB6 3JW – The Council objected to this application. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and Seconded by Councillor Roberts.
22/00401/FUL - 3 And 3A Short Road Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3LS – The Council made no objections to this application.
Decisions
22/00150/FUL - 23 Feast Green Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3GL - Approved

19/575: To receive the Financial Report and authorise the RFO to pay the accounts.
Proposed by Councillor Roberts and Seconded by Councillor Taylor that the accounts be paid, agreed unanimously Janet Parish did not vote.
STRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL REPORT - MAY 2022

Income Expenditure
Parish Room 140 Hire Salaries 2509.94
Mr and Mrs Parks 250 Donation PWLB 2573.13 Loan
G Carey 129 Land Cam Fire 54 Inspection
ECDC 37000 Precept L. Shearing 879 News
Lloyds 1.06 Interest R H Landscapes 966.82 Grounds
R. Nuttall 628.27 Web
Knightingales 545 Feast
BG 66.48 Power
37520.06 8222.64
Balance at the Bank
Current Account 36007.28
Instant Account 2005.86
SVC Account 105015.35
32day Account 97359.13
Total 240387.62

19/576:
The Village centre costing updates are now expected and currently waiting for the results of the planning surveys.

19/577: The next meeting would be on Tuesday 7th June at 7pm in the Parish Rooms.

September 27, 2015
Website
Welcome to the new look website.
We are working to make the new website more easy to update and maintain and more interactive.
Please feel free to add comments about what you would like to see on the new website, either about the Parish Council or about Stretham Village.
We are on the lookout for good photos of Stretham to use on the website, so if you have any suitable photos you would like to contribute, please let us know viagra 50mg prix.

2022 05 24
PCE
Apologies, there was previously a vulnerability in Wordpress which we use for the website. AFAIK, this was resolved some years ago, but I didn't spot that added link.
I have now removed the link, so thanks again (That's also the reason we don't allow comments on the website now, the large bulk of comments on the early website were spam / malicious).

2022 06 07 PC: extracts
19/581: Public Participation:
This had been missed from the agenda in error, all Councillors voted to take Public Participation. Residents were in attendance to discuss the current progress of the Village Hub and to get some clarity on planning. Councillor Nuttall answered questions and informed public that all planning surveys etc would be on the Website and the ECDC website.

19/583: Motion to proceed to planning for Stretham Community Hub
Stretham Parish Council agrees to progress the project to develop the Stretham Community Hub by submitting a Planning Application as detailed below and approving the related costs and actions and instructs the Project group to proceed with the planning application and related actions.
It was proposed by Councillor Nuttall to proceed to planning for Stretham Community Hub, this was seconded by Councillor Parish, with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor Taylor could not vote as she was not in attendance but emailed to say she is in support of this motion.

19/585: Planning Applications:
22/00463/FUL – 198 white Cross Road – The Council made no objections to this application.
Decisions
22/00215/FUL – Sopris, 5 Old Orchard Way, Stretham – Approved

2022 06 18 ES online
A couple who bought the Lazy Otter pub with no intention of doing anything with it other than living there, have been refused permission to turn it into a house. East Cambridgeshire District Council concluded closing the Stretham pub "would result in the loss of a community facility". Planners told Stephen and Rita Walsh they had "has failed to demonstrate that the facility is neither viable nor likely to become viable for its current community use or an alternative community use". For good measure the council added that the couple had failed to provide sufficient evidence that the premises have been adequately marketed for community purposes.
The council told them the "unjustified loss of a community facility" was contrary to established planning policies.
Mrs Walsh claimed that the reason The Lazy Otter closed down was because "not enough people used it. "If a fraction of the people who signed the petition came regularly it probably wouldn't have closed." he petition attracted over 800 signatures.
Mrs Walsh claimed the Lazy Otter had been marketed for years before they viewed it. Mrs Walsh said it had been advertised as pub for £600,000 before the asking price dropped to £475,000 for the freehold only. "Still without a sale, a final viewing day was arranged with a deadline for offers. "Only two others turned up and we believe we were the only ones to put in an offer," she said. Mrs Walsh insisted that "we definitely had no intention of re-opening it as a pub.
"It was a topic of conversation we had on more than one occasion with both the owners and the agent. We purposely asked that if it was going to be a problem, we would not enter an offer.
"They told us making an offer wouldn't be a problem and the agent reminded us that we just needed to obtain the correct planning approval."
But the district council has vetoed that application and cast both their future – and what becomes of the pub – into doubt.
The council is adamant that to justify the loss of a public house, the application must demonstrate, among other things, it is not viable.
It also requires evidence of a pub being marketed and that "reasonable efforts" have been to sell or let the property for community purposes at a realistic price for at least a year. Planners' say this has not happened. The council accepts an attempt was made to re-open the pub in March 2020 but that it closed in line with government Covid restrictions. In March 2021 it was put up for sale. When no officers were received the price was reduced. "When this was unsuccessful the pub was made available for closed bids following a final viewing day in October 2021. "No documentary evidence has been provided in respect of the above account of the marketing of the property. "In any case, based on the narrative account, the property was put on the market in March 2021 and sold shortly after October 2021."
The report adds: "This does not meet the requirements for a 12-month marketing period.
"Furthermore, no information of evidence has been provided in respect of the valuation of the property nor whether this price was agreed with the council following a professional valuation."
Bad news for the buyers continued. The report adds: "No evidence has been provided that there was no interest from any party in purchasing and running the premises as a pub. "No evidence has been provided that all reasonable efforts have been made to preserve the facility including all diversification options." And the council says there was no financial information, such as trading accounts for the pub, provided to evidence that it is not financially viable. East Cambs Council says the Covid restrictions "may well have had a particular suppressive effect on the level of interest in a pubic house which are unlikely to persist. "It is therefore considered that the application has failed to demonstrate that, in the terms of the Local Plan the pub is 'neither viable nor likely to become viable'"

2222 07 05 PC

Parish Council Minutes
19/595: Public Participation:
Members of the public were in attendance, a resident came and asked about the Village Centre, wanting to know if a large loan was going to be needed to cover the costs of the proposed Village Hub..
The Council were asked for an update on the proposed Doctors surgery at Manor Farm. Residents were keen to know it was still going ahead.
The Council were asked for a timeframe of the adoption of the road at Manor Farm. This is being delt with by SWCLT and the Highways department.
19/599: Planning Applications:
22/00463/FUL – 198 white Cross Road – The Council made no objections to this application
19/5602
The resignation of Councillor Clerk was received. Due to 10 residents writing to East Cambs, a full Village election will take place for the vacant position. The election will be held on the 11th August.
19/603 Items from sub-committees and members:
The Council noted that the planning application for the Stretham Community Hub was submitted on 1st July and agreed to the proposed next steps for the project, including:
Add web page to the Website including submitted planning documents.
The Design and Access Statement provided as part of Planning is circulated as a Newsletter with a foreword from Council (will incur some extra newsletter cost).
The proposed structure for the contracts, including retaining the Architect and Quantity Surveyor and appointing Laragh Build as the main contractor
It was discussed that a separate leaflet to the Newsletter would go out to all residents with the proposed plans for the Village Hub. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Speed, with the whole Council in agreement.

2022 07 05
Stretham Parish Council Meeting: audio recording of Parish Council meeting during which a Resident was described as 'ignorant' a liar and a kerb-crawler. https://archive.org/details/stretham-parish-counicl-meeting-5-july-2022

2022 07 28 ES Online
Land previously earmarked for a new GP surgery could become a community centre and business hub.
Stretham parish council has submitted an application for a new village centre at Manor Farm.
Haysom Ward Miller Architects has drawn up the proposals which are before East Cambridgeshire District Council.
"Following consultation with the village, the building comprises a collection of rooms to satisfy community needs," says the architects.
These will include a multi-purpose hall, function room, community cafe and micro business units.
The parish council will run the main hall, cafe, meeting rooms, council rooms and function rooms
"Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust propose to undertake the management of the micro retail and business units," says the architects.
These will provide "cost effective premises for local start-up businesses, and a venue for those seeking to work nearer to home".
The building is arranged as a series of wings around two primary courtyards, one public which forms an entrance court and one more private to enhance the hire of the function rooms.
Manor Farm has been the site of a Community Land Trust-led housing development at Stretham, with three phases of completed housing and a further fourth phase currently on site.
Haysom Ward Miller says approval had previously been granted on the site for a GP surgery and six CLT managed office/works units.

This approval included parking provision for 41 cars, plus further space for an ambulance and portable MSRI scanning unit.
“Due to recent events the local GP surgery has been unable to push forward the NHS approval of the creation of a new building, and so the site has not yet been developed,” says the architects.
“The opportunity to propose an alternative community use for the site has arisen from acknowledged community need.
“Stretham Parish Council and Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust have agreed to co-operate with proposals for this new development.”
The site is located to the east of the main village, at the top of the Manor Farm development where the new road, Petersfield, joins to Plantation Gate.
Architects say that as part of the consultation process six locations were considered as potential sites for the Community Hub.
The site chosen “has good pedestrian connections to the rest of the village via Plantation Gate,” says the architects.
One early objection says ‘wow, without any prior notice or consultation, planning has been submitted for a community centre”.
Another claims the new community centre “is in the wrong location, too big, too expensive, non-sustainable and will be a burden on local taxpayers and residents”.

2022 07 30
At 4.12pm on Saturday (30) crews were called to a fire in the open in [Grunty Fen] Haddenham. More than 50 firefighters attended a well-developed fire involving around 200 acres of farmland, including bales, hedgerow and crops. Crews from Cottenham, Ely, Cambridge, Littleport, Chatteris, March, Sawtry, Wisbech, the Peterborough Volunteer Fire Brigade, Stanground, Dogsthorpe and the south roaming fire engine, along with the water carrier from Ramsey and a crew from Wickhambrook in Suffolk, attended the incident. Firefighters worked tremendously hard throughout the afternoon to get the fire under control. They began leaving the scene at around 8pm and will be maintaining a regular presence to make sure the area is safe. Cambs Fire Brigade.
New photos have shown a scene of devastation following a Cambridgeshire field fire which saw more than 50 firefighters battling the flames. At around 4.15pm yesterday (July 30), Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service received reports of a large field fire in Haddenham.
Upon arrival at the scene, crews found around 100 acres of stubble on fire. Surrounding roads, such as Ely Road, were closed as firefighters dealt with the blaze.
Just after 8pm, the fire service confirmed on Twitter that the fire was under control, but confirmed that some resources would remain at the scene. The post said: "Our crews have worked tremendously hard this afternoon and have got the fire under control. They’ll be leaving the scene shortly for a well earned break…if they don’t get called to another emergency on the way back to station.
"We will keep crews at the scene to make sure it’s safe." Photos subsequently released by the fire service show scorched fields as far as the eye can see.
Stubble fires can be particularly dangerous for crews to fight due to the speed at which they can move and change direction. The fire service urged people to refrain from having bonfires or using disposable barbecues amid tinder dry conditions. Cambs Live

2022 08 02
Record of Stretham Hustings and Public Meeting
https://archive.org/details/stretham-hustings-parish-meeting-2nd-august-2022._202208

2022 08 02 Parish Council
There was no Parish Council meeting in August

2022 08 04

By-elections for parish councils rarely attract much attention – and certainly we've never heard of a public husting to listen to candidates. But Stretham is different. The parish council has a single vacancy and yet next Thursday there are four candidates for a single seat. What has created such a buzz in Stretham is the parish council's bid for a new community hub, how it will be financed, and to what extent the village has been consulted. A lot of money is at stake.
And reputations, inevitably, are being publicly scrutinised and decision-making processes challenged. Not least because the new centre will be at Manor Farm where a new housing estate has provided, by way of a contra arrangement, a large number of community land trust homes.
But part of the commitment has always been provision within the site of a new GP practice. And that, thus far, has stalled. The parish council is entitled to do what it thinks best for its village.

Maybe, though, they might ask themselves if transparency remains at the heart of all of their decisions. ES 2022 08 04

2022 08 05 Residents2gether website
Stretham Residents came together.
Some 100 Stretham villagers gathered in the Parish Hall.
There were elderly folk who had lived in the village all their lives alongside young folk who had lived in the village all their lives. And there were recent and not-so-recent residents who had made a significant financial commitment to join the community.
The whole village was represented, apart from the Parish 'leaders'.
There were three principal issues.
The first was the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates for a vacancy on the Parish Council. There had been criticism of the cost of having such an election, rather than what had become the norm, for Councillors to elect their 'chums'. It was obvious from listening to those who spoke that the expense would be worth it, whichever of the participants gained the most support.
A second issue concerned the provision of a Doctors' Surgery. This had been a fundament promise of developers of a new estate. It would be bad enough if those developers had been a major housebuilding consortium. But this group had claimed to be representative of the parish – a claim that had never been substantiated.
It was interesting to hear a member of the 'Trust' put the responsibility for the lack of a surgery on the National Health Service. However it was a promise that another supporter of the 'Trust' (who worked for the NHS) had said was undeliverable right at the start of the process.
It was a measure of the civility of those who had formerly supported the scheme, and especially those who had made that significant investment expressly on the basis of that promise, that the NHS was not called to administer first-aid.
The third issue was a 'Community Hall' for which an application for funding had been made in the name of the Parish Council without the support of that Council. This was an opportunity for a former County Councillor who had supported that application to explain the circumstances. He chose not to do so.
The application had included a promise from 'Parish Leaders' that their neighbours would raise match-funding of £1,000,000 towards something about which they had not be consulted.
In a document circulated after Planning Permission had been sought the Council states: "We are aware of a small number of people trying to spread misinformation about the project and they would prefer the project to fail … but the Council … will provide as much information to Stretham residents as possible."
There was no such information provided to the public meeting of about 100 residents who overwhelming expressed their opposition to the proposed 'Community Hub' proposals.
The 'Parish Leaders' were not there to hear. A few District Councillors were there, some of whom participated, while another sat quietly at the back taking notes.
Perhaps there is an opportunity for 'democracy' to triumph over dictatorship.

2022 08 23
Just an extra-ordinary August evening

Last evening Stretham strollers were greeted by the sound of drums, bells, accordions and fiddles coming from the direction of the village centre.
For those who ventured to explore it was a remarkable site.
On the road near the cross, with the Red Lion on one side, and the church of St James beyond, were a number of people in a variety of colourful costumes: ladies with bells on their legs, gentlemen with top hats and long white beards. Many carried sticks
As church bell-ringers sounded their peals the musicians struck up their tunes and men and women performed a variety of dances, mainly revolving around mock 'sword-fights' and stick-banging.
A young man walking his dog was amazed at the vision: it was something he had never heard of, let alone seen before. What was it? All we could think to say was 'tradition' – leaving me aware just how ignorant of our customs I am. He would have stared longer had not his large pet not been perturbed by the sound.
In a gap in the proceedings a Land Rover towing a container looking something like a sceptic tank swung into the narrow entrance gateway to a nearby house, being greeted with calls of 'Evening Squire' and 'Pickled Pig' – perhaps a comment on the possible contents of the mysterious tank. Any response was obscured by a loud 'clonk' as the vehicle made its way up the drive.
Another motorist apparently intent on the fastest-ever drive from the pub car park to Cross managed to spot the dancers just in time to stop and waited patiently whilst they performed, giving a cheery wave when they parted.
It was so sad that the dancers outnumbered the spectators so conclusively.
But it was truly a magical experience for those who saw it.

The dancers were SlackMaGirdle, a Morris dancing side based in Newmarket, Suffolk. They will be performing elsewhere in the region – check out their website – and do make a point of watching for them in your village

2022 08 25
Council Ignores Bullying Complaint
On July 19th Stretham Parish Council was sent a Freedom of Information Request:
"Stretham Parish Council Minute of 1st February 2022 records that during Public Participation 'A resident came and gave a statement on his thoughts on the Council'. A recording of the meeting shows that the resident complained that he had witnessed what he considered bullying by Councillor Roberts and Councillor Parish. This conduct he thought infringed the Council's Code of Conduct. Why was this not stated in the Minutes? What action has the Council taken with regard to this complaint?"
The Council has not made any reply.
It is their arrogance that is most appalling.
The Councillors were 'elected' unopposed. Some have since walked away quoting constant bullying – one having been visited at their homes to be reprimanded for expressing their opinions. They have been replaced by council 'chums'.
The Council's role is to maintain the parish's facilities – like the community's Hall which has holes in the roof - and spend residents' money to enhance the residents' enjoyment of their chosen home.
They are not 'Developers', empowered to commit large sums of money on grandiose schemes.
It is Stretham Parish's Council, not Janet Parish's Council.
Bullying would not be tolerated in a Youth Club. It will not be tolerated in a 'grown-up' parish

2022 09 04 Cambridgeshire Live
The story of the witches of Stretham accused of 'cursing children, killing cattle and overboiling pots without heat', by Niamh Dann, Life Writer Apprentice
This small and picturesque Cambridgeshire village has a bloody and terrifying past.
Stretham, a village and civil parish just outside Ely, is a peaceful quiet place, known for its historic steam-powered pump, windmill and picturesque views. But less than 500 years ago, the village became absorbed into a terrifying and deadly witch hunt that led to several deaths.
During the English Civil War of the 1640s, much of England erupted into social turmoil. As war and death gripped the nation when Parliament fought to topple King Charles I, the law suffered and

mass hysteria spread as many began to believe the world was coming to an end and the Devil was taking over.
This was when British witch trials were at their height, resulting in hundreds of deaths. Strangely, in this small Cambridgeshire village, religious divisions and arguments resulted in neighbours being accused of plotting with the Devil.
In 1647, an older married woman of Stretham, Joan Salter, was accused of conspiring with the Devil and doing his evil bidding through witchcraft. So what was her crime?
Strangely, her very own stepson Robert Salter accused her of allowing wheat to boil over in a pot, despite the absence of heat. Is it possible that he just didn't see the fire?
But this wasn't the only thing her hateful stepson accused her of; he also claimed that when a neighbour Goody Apreston was suffering from an illness, Joan had visited her and was afterwards carried away by a black horse that 'crept betwixt hir leggs and carried her over the Green to her own house'.
After this very strange accusation, Joan was arrested and her body was examined for marks of the Devil. She dismissed the marks on her body as those originating from childbirth but her cries for human rights were to no avail. Joan was imprisoned in the gaol in Ely and later confessed to the black horse story (confessions were usually got from torture). The fate of Joan Salter was not recorded.
Poor Joan Salter was not the only Stretham local to be accused of witchery. Dorothy Ellis was the subject of two accusations by Gillian Salter and Alice Wade in 1647. She was accused of cursing a hideous illness on Gillian Salter's baby daughter.
According to the accusation, she stroked the face of the child and, after mumbling some words, went out. Shortly after, the baby fell mysteriously ill, the side of her face touched by Ellis being severely swollen.
She also was accused of cursing local cattle and sending imps to bewitch her neighbour John Gotobed because he called her an 'old Witch' and flung stones at her. Dorothy Ellis was imprisoned and died in the gaol at Ely.

2022 09 06 PC
Stretham Parish Council Minutes
19/608: Public Participation:
Light up Stretham were in attendance, they asked the Council if they could transfer the money the Council were holding for them into their new bank account, they also requested a donation for the Christmas tree this year.
Residents were also in attendance to ask about the proposed Doctors surgery.

19/609: Update from Councillor Hunt
Councillor Bill Hunt was in attendance at the meeting

19/611:
Living Roofs. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor to get a proper quote to have a proper company come out and give the Council a quote for having living roofs put on the bus shelters. The Council voted on this proposal, with the majority voting against the project.

19/612: Planning Applications:
22/00723/FUL - 38 High Street Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3LD – The Council made no comments.
22/00401/FUL - 3 And 3A Short Road Stretham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3LS – The Council made no commetns
22/00814/FUL - Site East Of 11A Plantation Gate Stretham Cambridgeshire – The Council noted that this is their application.

19/614: To receive the Financial Report and authorise the RFO to pay the accounts.
Proposed by Councillor Parish and Seconded by Councillor Speed that the accounts be paid, agreed unanimously. ***It was proposed that the accounts be paid in August (no Council meeting to be held)***

with a report given to Councillors at the September meeting, this was proposed by Councillor Taylor, Seconded by Councillor Nuttall with the whole Council in agreement.
[This minute is clearly wrong as it relates to a previous meeting]

19/5615 To receive Correspondence
An email was received regarding how to put a poster up on the notice board, it is advised to put it through the Clerks door.

19/616 Items from sub-committees and members:
2 more quotes are required for the play park repairs.
Wakefield Way bridge needs attention again.
Village Centre – Planning is now in; this will be reviewed at the October full planning committee.
All of the planning paper work is on the Council website as well as East Cambs.
A meeting to discuss drainage and solar panels to be arranged.
Waiting for feedback from the NHS.
Other funding sources are being looked at.

19/617: Councillor Questions
Councillor Parish reminded all Councillors that if there are jobs that come up around the Village that require contractors to complete, all requests must go to the Clerk to be logged and delt with.
The green end street sign needs replacing.
The locks on the recreation ground park need looking at.
LHI update.
Councillor Roberts asked Councillor Stuart if he would like to share with the Council the outcome of the complaint made against him to East Cambs District Council by Councillor Stuart. Councillor Stuart did not share the outcome, but did say he had referred it to the ombudsman.

2022 09 14 CambsNews
A newly elected parish councillor is furious that his vice chairman Charles Roberts was exonerated over remarks made to him prior to his election.
Cllr Roberts (top left) described Cllr Doug Stuart (top right) at the July parish council meeting as "a disgrace; you seek to destroy what is good in this community".
Cllr Roberts, a former leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, also told Cllr Stuart that "you make up numbers, you pluck things from the air to suit your own twisted arguments".
And, for good measure, Cllr Roberts, vice chairman of Stretham Parish Council, accused Cllr Stuart of being "the most ill-informed resident in the village".
Cllr Roberts was also reported as saying that Cllr Stuart "follows councillors home from these meetings, kerb crawling them".
He also told Cllr Stuart his actions were "part of your pattern to destroy what is good -in this community, you tell lies".
However, a complaint made by Cllr Stuart to East Cambs Council – that oversees parish council codes of conduct – concluded that Cllr Roberts had no case to answer.
Cllr Stuart, (he won a keenly contested by election last month against three others) believes the 'verdict' is unjust.
He wants East Cambs to reconsider the complaint "with somebody competent in law as clearly the returning officer either made a mistake or deliberately cited court cases with no relevance to try to protect Cllr Roberts".
Cllr Stuart said Cllr Roberts had "tried to defame my character by lying about my actions, my intentions and claiming I committed criminal acts.
"There was no basis or evidence for any of these accusations and they were used to protect himself and the council and community land trust which is heavily linked with the parish and district council.
"I am sure some people who have believed the comments and now see me, a local businessman, as a liar, a disgrace and believe I committed a criminal offence by kerb crawling. All completely made up.

“This will have damaged views on myself and my local business.”
Cllr Stuart said all he had done previously as a member of the public was to attend meetings and ask questions.
Maggie Camp, East Cambs solicitor and monitoring officer, that she and the independent members of the public who consider code of conduct issues, all agreed there had been no breach of the code.
She told Cllr Stuart: “We noted that Cllr Roberts accepts the words used. Whilst we believe he could perhaps have chosen his words more carefully; we are mindful of Cllr Roberts’ right to freedom of expression”.
Ms Camp said this was protected under the Human Rights Act and quoted case law to support her conclusions.
One case she said, “recognised that what was said by elected politicians was subject to enhanced protection and that protection applied to all levels of politics, including local government which includes parish councils”.
Cllr Roberts told Ms Camp, during the investigation, that he accepts he had said the words to Cllr Stuart but “the context of the comments is absent.
“My words were not unprovoked and followed yet another statement from Mr Stuart.
“On these occasions his intimidation had reached new levels. For this meeting Mr Stuart had set up a video recording prior to making his statement. I have no doubt he did this hoping to elicit a reaction from me.
“Over a prolonged period, Mr Stuart had made spurious statements about me which are unfounded and certainly untrue.
“Against a backdrop of Mr Stuart continuously spreading mistruths about my involvements and motivations in both Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust (SWCLT) and parish business, I felt it necessary to call out his actions in public and I felt I had to other choice than to do this at a parish council meeting.”
Cllr Roberts continued: “The allegation that I was slanderous is laughable and I maintain that everything I have said is true.
“It seems nonsensical to me that Mr Stuart can conduct assassinations on my character, yet because I hold public office, I am denied an opportunity to address his behaviour.
“Those that know me would never describe my nature as bullying or threatening. It is simply not my nature.
“I accept that I am elected and therefore I am required to hold a higher standard, but such is human nature there is only so much an individual can withstand.
“I held my counsel for many months but at the last parish council meeting enough was enough.
“I felt that the only opportunity I had to defend myself and my family and call out this continuous appalling behaviour of Mr Stuart was to respond at the parish council meeting to show publicly that I and others can no longer tolerate his behaviour.”
Cllr Roberts said: “I would like to put on record that all my efforts are directed solely for the benefit of improving the lives of, and opportunities for, the good people of Stretham.
“Everything I have done and everything I will continue to do is for the good of the community.

“In previous months and at several parish council meetings Mr Stuart has attended and given multiple repetitive statements that call in to question my integrity.
“One example of this is Mr Stuart’s persistent insistence of impropriety relating to a relation of mine living in an SWCLT property; a matter where I had declared an interest and took no part in the decision of the committee.
“Mr Stuart continues to either knowingly or mistakenly misunderstand the difference between SWCLT business and parish council business. It is my belief that this misunderstanding feeds the mistruths that he promotes to continuously discredit me.”
“On several occasions Mr Stuart has been warned to conduct himself respectfully and appropriately at parish council meetings.
“I strongly believe and there is evidence to suggest that Mr Stuart’s complaint is politically motivated and yet another attempt to smear my good name and standing in

And that should not have included “trying to bully and intimidate me to stop attending meetings and asking difficult questions, mostly in relation in the links with the land trust and how public money is being spent”.
Cllr Stuart dismissed as “nonsense” the suggestion he should not have video recorded a meeting.
“Recording meetings is completely legal and whilst Cllr Roberts might find it intimidating having the public aware of what is actually happening at these meetings, I do not believe this gives him any right to act in the way he did way,” he said.
“His actions breach some of the Nolan principles and some principles written at the top of your code of conduct,” he said.
Ms Camp felt Cllr Stuart “did not provide any evidence of bullying or intimidation over and above what was said in a public meeting.
“Further, the response from Councillor Roberts provides some background and context as to why he said what he did and it was dear that this was in response to statements that you have made over the course of several months, statements you made in the meeting and your actions in setting up a video recording of the meeting.
“We therefore do not believe that councillor Roberts has breached the code of conduct in relation to bullying and intimidation.
“In light of our view in respect of bullying and intimidation, we do not feel that Councillor Roberts’ words have brought the parish council into disrepute.”
East Cambs chief executive John Hill also refused to intervene.
He said that the council could consider a complaint about the process of a code of conduct complaint but could not change its outcome.
“There is no complaints or appeal process for the actual decision made,” he said.
“I am therefore unable to review the court cases cited or the relevance of the reference to you recording the meeting as you have requested, as these relate to the decision regarding your code of conduct complaint.
Mr Hill told Cllr Stuart: “If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to take your complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman. Complete the form on the Local Government Ombudsman website or call their advice line on 0300 0610614.
“The ombudsman does not operate a right of appeal against a council’s decision on member conduct complaints but can consider if there was fault in the way the council considered the complaint.
“They will only investigate complaints if there is sufficient injustice to warrant our involvement or they consider it in the public interest to do so.
“They may also be able to investigate complaints about the way the council has investigated the complaint about parish or town councillors.
“But would need to consider what they could ultimately achieve as they could not investigate the actions of the town or parish council itself.”

2022 10 05
To: stretham-parish-council@googlegroups.com
Subject: [stretham-pc] RE: Vote at the meeting
Here is the text of the motion as agreed at the meeting.
The next steps are to update the planning application (included within costs already agreed) and submit funding requests (no cost to the Council since I am not charging for my time).
Stretham Parish Council confirms its commitment to the Stretham Community Hub and to the next steps of the project which include :
Progress discussions with the NHS to agreement and agreed designs to include the required buildings for the GP surgery and Pharmacy
Submit updated designs including the GP surgery and Dispensary as a change to the existing planning application (will delay planning determination until November)
Submit updated funding requests to ECDC for a combined Phase 1 & Phase 3 project, covering the Main hall, community rooms, GP Surgery and Dispensing Pharmacy
Continue to include Phase 2 in the planning application, costs for Phase 2 to be covered by SWCLT
Continue to progress the work already started to handle detailed designs and engagement with consultants within the commitments already made

Continue to seek additional funding (to reduce the impact on the precept of the PWLB Loan)
Engage a community liaison person to provide additional active engagement with the supporters in Stretham provide information on the project.

2022 10 05 Cambridgeshire Live
Two bus services in Cambridgeshire will continue to run until at least early next year. Funding from the Combined Authority has saved these community services in Ely and Wisbech until March.
The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority will provide funding to keep the Ely Zipper, run by Dews, and the Wisbech Tesco 68 Bus, run by community transport provider FACT, until March 25, 2023.
The two rural bus services are vital connections for those living in the area, particularly for older users and those who need wheelchair access. The Zipper service runs in a loop starting and ending in Ely, travelling through Stretham, Wilburton, Aldreth, Haddenham and Witcham.

2022 10 16 Cambridgeshire Live
The A10 Ely Road was closed in both directions after a multi-vehicle crash near Chittering. The incident happened between the Waste Management Park roundabout and the Chittering village turn-off (the old Travellers Rest pub) at around 3.15pm yesterday afternoon (October 15). Traffic moving between Ely and Cambridge was being affected. Both the Northbound and Southbound carriageways were closed and traffic was queuing. Cambridgeshire Police were urging drivers to find another route. People were also warned that the road was likely to be closed for several hours.

2022 10 17 Cambridgeshire Live
A father and his 18-month-old daughter have both sadly died in a collision with a lorry near a Cambridgeshire village. The crash happened on Saturday, October 15, along the A10 near Chittering. Two further passengers were taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital after the collision. The crash happened at 2:50pm on Saturday when a blue Ford Fiesta was in a collision with a lorry. The blue Ford Fiesta was travelling south along the A10 near Chittering. The driver of the blue Ford Fiesta, a man in his 20s from Dagenham, Essex, was pronounced dead at the scene, as was his 18-month-old daughter. Two further passengers from the car were taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital.

2022 10 27 Ely Standard
Knowles Transport has purchased the East Cambridgeshire logistics firm Masters Logistical Services, it has been announced. As part of the transaction, the two Cambridgeshire companies will continue to operate as separate entities under common ownership. The amount paid for the acquisition has not been disclosed. Alex Knowles, a director at Knowles Transport, said the firm is “delighted” with the news and “proud to be welcoming such an established and well-respected brand to the Knowles family”. “The acquisition acts as a significant milestone in Knowles’ history as we continue on our growth journey,” he said. “With demand remaining buoyant for our services, the increase in additional resources will allow us to further expand our operations as well as cater to the demands and needs of both existing and new customers – ultimately helping to facilitate further growth.” Masters Logistical Services is an independent warehousing, distribution and transport service which collects freight from Cambridgeshire and East Anglia and delivers across the UK. The company was incorporated in 2006 but its origins date back to 1982.
The team behind the sale of Masters Logistical Services to Knowles Transport. From left to right: Samuel Reynolds, of PEM Corporate Finance; Helaina Mann, of Howes Percival; Philip Olagunju, PEM Corporate Finance; Paul Upton, formerly of Masters Logistical Services; Alex Knowles, of Knowles Transport and Oliver Pritchard, Howes Percival. - Credit: PEM Corporate Finance
Owners and directors Paul Upton and Deanna Wood have worked together at the business for almost 20 years. In that time, it has grown from a next day delivery courier service to a specialist, and respected, national logistics player with established blue-chip clients.
The last set of unaudited accounts filed with Companies House in December 2021 said there were 28 employees.

Anthony Knowles and Pamela Knowles were formally appointed directors of Masters Logistical Services on October 10.
Mr Upton said: "We are extremely pleased to have found a like-minded local company to take over the business, they have a long history in logistics and will ensure Masters reaches its full potential."
As part of the transaction, Knowles Transport will be joining the Palletline network of which Masters Logistical Services was a shareholder.
This cooperative of UK haulage firms works in partnership to distribute palletised freight efficiently across the UK and Europe.
PEM Corporate Finance, based in Cambridge, acted as lead adviser to Masters throughout the sale.
Partner Philip Olagunju said: "The project had a few bumps along the way, but it's great to have finally crossed the line.
"In Knowles Transport, we found a buyer already in the logistical services space with a proud heritage and a very similar ethos to Masters.
"There are strong synergistic benefits to this deal, which unlocks some exciting growth opportunities."

2022 11 01 PC
Stretham Parish Council Minutes
19/634: Public Participation: Mr James asked "Could the Council reconsider its decision to carry out further works on the proposed Village Hub until after the elections of May 2023"? Members rejected the suggestion.

19/638: To consider planning applications:
22/00180/OUM – land at Cambridge Road Stretham. Refuse: Inadequate access arrangements.
22/01799/FUM: land at Berry Close, Stretham. Refuse: Inadequate access, outside the DAB.
22/0140/LBC - 22/1039/FUL: Conversion of existing outbuilding to annex. No Objection.
Councillor Roberts declared a pecuniary interest in the application as the owner of the property. (Councillor Roberts left the room and took no part in the discussion or voting)

Transcript of recording
I have an additional planning application relating to Orchard House
Someone made a complaint to the officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council to say this hasn't come before us and I have done some investigation this afternoon and I can tell you quite simply why it has not come before us
Because whoever loaded it on used one number and whoever loaded it on for validation purposes used another number so it would not be picked up to be sent out to the parishes for consideration and this goes back to September. It's all there but the numbers are clearly wrong and so are the letter wrong.
What I've done this afternoon is I've sent all those on email I have sent you the relevant of drawings and for those who are not, Councillor Steed and Councillor Murfitt I have given them a printed copy of the relevant drawings.
I've got no further information than that, depending on what members say we can get a response in tomorrow morning which will be acceptable. I've notice that the property owner is here and has declared an interest
Roberts: I shan't comment on this application at all … fairly cynical comments have been made about what might have happened to my application … I've done a little bit of research and have found that five applications that I didn't recall … seven holiday lodges, I don't recall that … 64 static units and ancillary building for workmen's accommodation sent out on 13th September all other consultees have responded … but we haven't and a non-illuminated sign adjacent to Chear Fen … 4th October which doesn't seem to have arrived and also a change of materials on 9 Newmarket Road … mine isn't the only one that got lost

19/640: To receive an update from SWCLT.

Phase 4 was progressing well; completion of a further 6 SWCLT homes was due in the spring of 2023. There were already several enquires for occupation.
Petersfield Road had been surfaced.
The cemetery extension had been agreed and land gifted to the Parish Council. The amenities committee will arrange for the fencing to be errected.
There was a discussion regarding the updating of rules of the SWCLT. The current Rules of SWCLT were drafted in 2012 and, with just one minor amendment since then, they require updating. The Rules would be updated in line with the most up to date Model Rules (2017***). The update would enable clearer lines of accountability for SWCLT Board Members who may also be Councillors and would make it more attractive for potential investors to acquire shares in the SWCLT*** should the Board decide to offer shares for investment purposes at any point in the future.
"Stretham Parish Council is recommended to note the rational for the change in the model rules of the SWCLT; and replace the rules dated 12th October 2012 which were subsequently amended and formally agreed by the FCA on 1st August 2022, with the new model rules" It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and Seconded by Councillor Sennitt that the council accept the change of rules. Members agreed unanimously to adopt the resolution.
[This seems a complex motion for the Council to consider]

19/641: Correspondence: Correspondence was received from the following.
A request was received from Janet Gill asking for the Parish Council Agenda to be place on the website. Similarly, the Parish Newsletter.
Clare Brand asked who was responsible for the ditch at the rear of 8 Petersfield. It was resolved that this is the responsibility of ECDC.
A letter from Sally Chambers was received regarding the unsociable behaviour during a football match on 22nd of October 2022. There was once again urinating against private fencing and gate of 21 Cambridge Road. Very serious foul language was also loudly shouted in front of very young children who were in the playpark and exposed to passive cannabis smoke generated by users nearby. Members agreed that this was unacceptable, The Clerk would write to the football club and remind them of their obligations particularly near young children. The away teams found guilty of this behaviour would face a lifetime ban. A further letter from Kelly Jeffrey was also received reiterating the letter of Sally Chambers.

19/642: Reports from sub-committees.
Village hub: NHS has agreed the proposed design, the plans have been submitted to ECDC and hopefully considered at the November Planning Meeting.
19/643: Councillors questions:
Councillor Murfitt had received complaints that the Parish Newsletter was late again

2022 11 16
Manor Farm Estate, by Doug Stuart
This is an edited version of a post to the Residents2gether group.
You can read the complete post and make comments on that group, which is open to all

The Manor Farm Estate was put through planning as a community lead development but only had the support of eight Stretham residents on their consultation. Equal to less than half a percent of the village in support.
The non CLT houses built are expensive and as such pushed the value of houses in Stretham up, stopping people like myself and many others being able to afford to buy or rent in the village. The non CLT houses were marketed to Londoners as an ideal commuter village.
The Manor Farm development has also aided blocking other developments, stopping any real gain of affordable or social housing in the village.
The Manor Farm development only provides 30% of the homes to the CLT, much like any private development provides a minimum of 30% as affordable/ social housing. Most CLTs around the country provide a much higher percent of the houses as CLT owned rather than the private, built for profit, houses we see at Manor Farm.

… the Combined Authority … actioned loans of around £50million of public money meant for building affordable homes. £16million was loaned to Laragh Homes and more was loaned to East Cambs Trading Company in return for a handful of "£100k homes". The government withheld the remaining £45million of the £100million in funding for affordable housing.
MP Luke Hall wrote to the Combined Authority Board on March 11 2021 to say the Government would not continue to fund the programme "on its current basis", citing concerns over progress and value for money.
This has left Cambridgeshire way behind in building affordable housing ….. The Homeless Officer has stated there just isn't enough affordable housing in the area and all they could offer is a hostel in Peterborough. … moving back to Stretham … is near impossible, due to the rising house prices which I believe has been accelerated by the effect of the mass of expensive private homes at the Manor Farm Estate.
For a minority it may be great, getting a cheap house to rent or buy for one or two for your family through people you've known for years in the village you love.
For others it is much different and is pushing families out of the village, by the younger generation having to move out of the village they love.
It is pushing young mums out of the village due to lack of social housing as the SWCLT / Manor Farm has been used as a reason for voting against other developments which would have provided more.
We can't go back now but had the SWCLT been a majority CLT development rather than majority private, many more on the large waiting list would now have a home. Had it been half the size, but providing the same amount of CLT homes as now, ECDC may have allowed other affordable developments in the village aiding residents looking to move out the family home in different situations, where they are requiring social or affordable housing.
What we can do now is push the SWCLT to build the doctors surgery with their business units, using their private trusts money. Not using our Parish Council money paid from our hard earned taxes and worse loans on top of this tying the hands of future Parish Councils for 30 years.
Just my two pence …
Please make any comments to the Residents2gether Group

2022 12 FenSCENE
Democracy in Action: Will the Parish Council Respect the Parish Poll?
This article is published in the January edition of FenSCENE.
STRETHAM villagers have voted 2:1 in favour of asking their Parish Council to stop any further activity and spending on controversial plans for a multi-million pound community hub until after the local elections in May next year, reports Christina Connor.
The poll, held on Thursday November 10th, saw 29.49 per cent of the village express an opinion. 317 voted in favour of the proposal while 157 voted against.
Now all eyes are on the Stretham Parish Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 6th to hear if the parish councillors will respect the decision or plough-on with the scheme, regardless of the vote.
The November meeting of the Parish Council heard Cllr Jo Taylor had requested they avoid the £3k public vote cost to the village, by agreeing to put the proposal before the Parish Council. Her request was declined.
Stretham Parish Council chair, Janet Parish, explained to councillors and a significant public audience present, the issue of the hub would not be discussed because the Parish Council had already voted on it and, under Stretham Parish Council rules, it could not be re-addressed.
Parish Council moves to stop the subject being added to the agenda at the meeting were further thwarted though when Cllr Doug Stuart raised the issue of the poll in the 'councillors' questions' part of the meeting.
Cllr Charles Roberts criticised Cllr Stuart for the move: "Bringing it in through the back door, to open this debate again, is unreasonable," he told the meeting. "Our decision on this was a comprehensive, 7 in favour, 2 against with one abstention. We should not be opening it again under our rules."

Undeterred, Cllr Stuart asked probing questions such as how the overall cost of the proposed building had been calculated and how a Parish Council bid for a Public Works Board Loan could be completed without clear and accurate predictions of the anticipated resulting rise in the parish precept.
In return, Cllr Richard Nuttall questioned how the proposed Business Plan for the scheme could be progressed if the Parish Council had to stall actions until after May and not gather appropriate information for the project.
Chair Parish intervened as the exchange became heated saying: "Can we just stop this now. I am having the final word. This matter is stopped and closed. The Council [Stretham Parish Council] has made a decision and that decision is to proceed and that is what we are doing."
The Parish Council will meet on Tuesday 6th December at 7pm in Stretham Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend to watch democracy in action

2022 11 30 Ely Standard
A huge £2.3million of funding has been given to nine projects designed to improve quality of life for residents in East Cambridgeshire.
East Cambridgeshire District Council redirected the money from its Growth and Infrastructure Fund at a meeting of the finance and assets committee after councillors were impressed by “the high calibre of the nine projects which met the criteria for funding”, so much so they agreed to add a further £300,000 to the budget so all could be funded.
…
Stretham Parish Council will receive £700,000 towards the cost of a new Community Hub and GP rooms at Plantation Gate, which could replace the existing unfit committee rooms and the condemned Stretham GP Surgery with a multi-use facility while the GP rooms will give residents in-village GP service
A new safety barrier and trespass guards are some of the upgrades planned for a railway crossing as part of a £194 million redevelopment project.
The plans, lodged by Network Rail to improve Dimmocks Cote crossing near Stretham, also include audible warning devices.
“This Dimmocks Cote upgrade proposal forms a part of the wider C3R project that will deliver a safer, more reliable and efficient railway for its customers,” said Network Rail.
C3R (Cambridge re-signalling, re-lock and re-control project) covers 125 miles of track from Ely in the north to Cambridge, and Thurston to the east. Network Rail hopes the project will “improve reliability of the operational railway in the Ely, Cambridgeshire and Anglia area”.

2022 11 28. Ely Standard
A manually controlled barrier is planned for the Dimmocks Cote crossing, which sits on the A1123 Newmarket Road, as well as a barrier in each corner. Network Rail told planners that the crossing is automatically activated by approaching trains and is protected by signals. All existing equipment at the railway crossing would also be removed as part of the upgrade.
“The barriers will be fitted with skirts to fence off the railway from users when lowered,” Network Rail told planners. “They will be fitted with galvanized guards/cages to shield moving parts of the barrier weights from users.”
New road traffic light signals (RTLS) are proposed for each corner of the level crossing, with audible warning devices affixed to each nearside RTLS. Equipment for inside the railway fence line would be used to control the level crossing, and painted green which Network Rail say would “reduce visual impact.
“Rubber pyramid type trespass guards will be provided across the railway between the barriers for a minimum distance of 2.6m from the crossing surface as a deterrent against trespass.” Work on the Dimmocks Cote crossing is planned to start in mid-2023

2022 12 07 Residents2gether Group
“Charles is getting his houses (23 and counting!) ..."
This Post appears on the Residents2gether Stretham Facebook Group to which any comments should be directed

When all said and done it also doesn't change the fact that the Dr's surgery was planned for phase 1 and was a key factor in planning permission being granted in the first place.
To quote Phil Rose, partnership manager for Laragh Homes,
"Obviously there were some challenges as a private company working with the community but it did create new opportunities for us".
Another quote "This land otherwise wouldn't have obtained planning permission but by working in partnership with the local residents and helping, we've managed to create some appealing energy efficient housing designs that will really be in keeping with the village".
He further added "we are still going to be creating our normal development profit from the scheme but what it does is it allowed us to bring forward new housing in an area where it perhaps it wouldn't have otherwise happened ".
Final quote, "Charles is getting his houses (23 and counting!) for his local people, and the new GP surgery and small business units".
Given that only 13 people responded to the subject of growth on the outskirts of Stretham and only 10 lived in the village and 4 of them said no, it would seem that the whole development was based on lies 1) a community heavily involved in the design, 2) a Drs' surgery in phase 1 not and add on, maybe, to phase 4 but 3) at least SWCLT has increased its portfolio of owned properties….. the same faces keep on popping up…

Postscript 2023 update

The planning application for the Community Hub, which had been opposed by over 50 residents, was not subject to public debate by District Councillors but decided by an Officer.